

BULGARIA



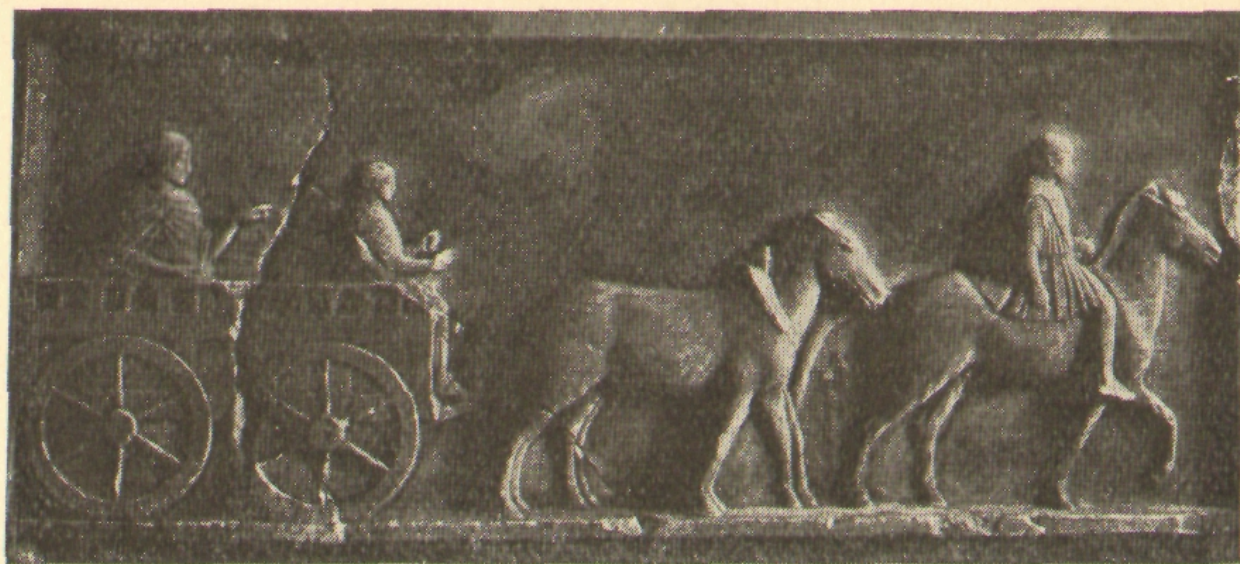
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B U L G A R I A



Welcome to Bulgaria!



Marble Frieze — Grecian Triumphal March. (Of the 4-th Cent. B. C.)
(National Museum, Sofia)

BULGARIA

CLIMATE AND STRUCTURAL CHARACTER

Bulgaria occupies the North-East corner of the Balkan Peninsula, between latitudes 41 and 44 and longitudes 22 and 28 East of Greenwich. It is therefore situated in the Northern temperate zone, South of latitude 45 and nearer the Equator than the Pole.

On the East Bulgaria is bordered by the Black Sea, the ancient Pontus Euxinus, which washes its shores for a distance of 311 klm., forming a number of picturesque bays and gulfs.

In the South-East Bulgaria has common frontiers with Greece, in the West with Yougoslavia and in the North the Danube for a distance of 400 klm. forms the frontier between Bulgaria and Roumania. This river is an important water way for direct communication with Central Europe.

The area of Bulgaria within these frontiers is in round figures 103.000 square klm. and it has a population of about 6 million inhabitants.



Mountain Scenery

Bulgaria is intersected from West to East by the majestic chain of the Stara-Planina or Balkan (ancient Hemus) Mountains, which extend from the North—Western point of the Country, near the river Timok, as far as the Black Sea at Cape Emine. In the West the Balkans form an enormous arc facing North—East and there-after go in a straight line to the sea.

Geographically speaking the Balkans are divided into three parts, Western from the Timok river to the Iskar Gorge, Central from the latter gorge to the narrow passage of the Iron Gates, near Sliven, and Eastern up to the Black Sea. The Balkans or in Bulgarian Stara Planina, have given their name to the whole of the Peninsula. Its Western portion cuts off Bulgaria from Yougoslavia, from the Kome summit to the Vejen summit Northern Bulgaria from North—Western Bulgaria, and from there to the Black Sea Southern from Northern Bulgaria.

The Balkans are for the most part covered with varied forests and offer the tourist picturesque spots



Our plains

where he may enjoy enchanting views amidst natural splendour. Extending eastwards to the Black Sea coast and bounded in the North by the Danube is the large and fertile plain of Northern Bulgaria, formerly called Moesia.

Just South of the Balkans and alongside a considerable distance of it runs the Sredna Gora chain, which in its irregular progress forms beautiful plains, such as the Valley of Roses. It is almost entirely wooded and is much lower than the Balkan range; hiding some very interesting spots which, contrary to the Balkans, are easily accessible to tourists. The beautiful and fertile plain of Thrace stretches South of the Sredna Gora range as far as the Rhodopes and eastwards to the Black Sea. This plain is drained by the Maritza river (old Hebrus) which according to ancient legends is peopled with water nymphs.

In South—West Bulgaria is found the picturesque plain of Sofia, where at the foot of the Vitosha heights stands Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria.



Mountain Pastures

To the South of Vitosha are the Rila mountains which are covered with snow for the greater part of the year. The Maritza and Iskar rivers take their rise there. They are the longest and most famous rivers in Bulgaria; the one flowing into the Aegean Sea, after having crossed the Thracian plain, and the other running through the plain of Sofia, intersecting the Balkans and passing via the the Danube plain to flow into the Danube. The Rila Mountains are covered with huge forests of pine and fir trees and have picturesque scenery and pleasant plateaus.

The Pirrin range, mainly wooded and possessing high summits, deep valleys, and many glacier lakes in Alpine scenery, is separated from the Rila Mountains by the Razlog valley which is drained by the Mesta river.

East of this range the mysterious Rhodope mountains stretch to the South-East as far as the Aegean Sea and North-East via the Strandja Planina mountains to the Black Sea. The Rhodope mountains are almost



In a Wood

entirely covered by forests in which pine and fir predominate. There are numerous villages hidden amidst these mountains. Not so lofty as the Balkans, and with more valleys and pretty plateaus they attract many tourists and, during the summer months, holiday makers.

Bulgaria, in view of this structural character, presents most varied scenery to tourists and other visitors the great mountains, rich plains, streams and water falls and wonderful vegetation. Moreover it enjoys a temperate continental climate, mild and agreeable in Southern Bulgaria, and with considerable variations of temperature in Northern and South-Western Bulgaria, nevertheless healthy and favourable for touring in winter as well as summer.

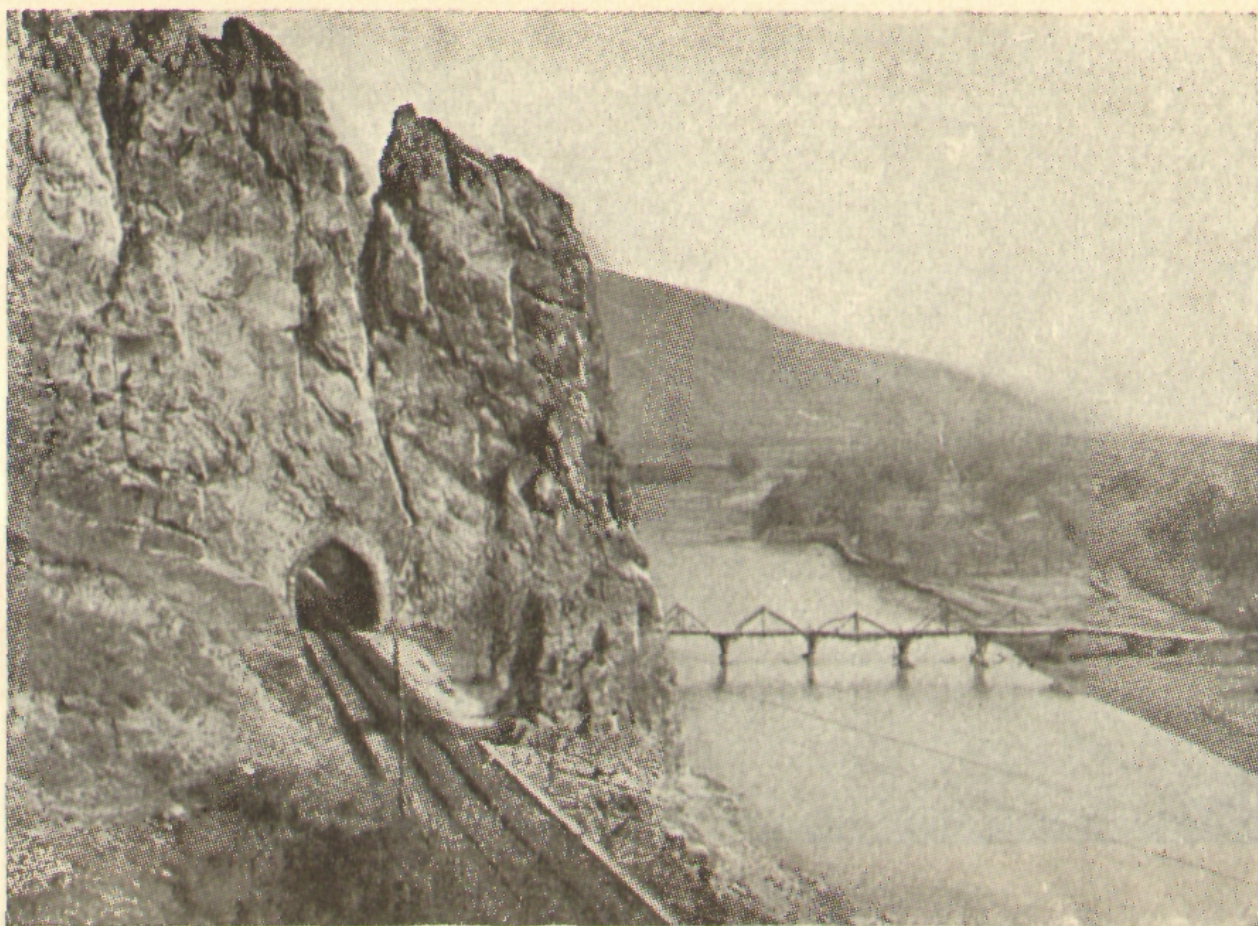
Bulgaria has over 900 mineral springs of various properties and temperatures, which are generally situated in very picturesque places. A large number of these springs have become watering places in which relief and sometimes recovery is found from different illnesses, or in which a pleasant season can be spent.



Traversing the Iskar Gorge

Those preferring sea side resorts will find on the Black Sea coast several well situated beaches, where during the summer season a pleasant time is to be had in sun and sea bathing.

Bulgaria has direct international communications by rail, river (Danube) and sea. The Belgrade—Sofia—Plovdiv — Constantinople line connects Bulgaria with Central Europe, Italy, France and England. Travellers arriving at Constantinople by sea will reach Bulgaria via Adrianople—Svilengrade. There are connections with Roumania, Poland and the Baltic States via Roustchouk — Giurgevo — Bucarest. The Danube is an international waterway connecting Bulgaria with Central Europe as far as Regensburg, and this is a pleasant way of travelling in the summer. There is direct communication with Constantinople from the Black Sea ports of Varna and Bourgas, and further with Mediterranean ports. Ships under the Bulgarian flag make regular trips to Athens, Alexandria, Syria, and Constantinople from Varna and Bourgas.

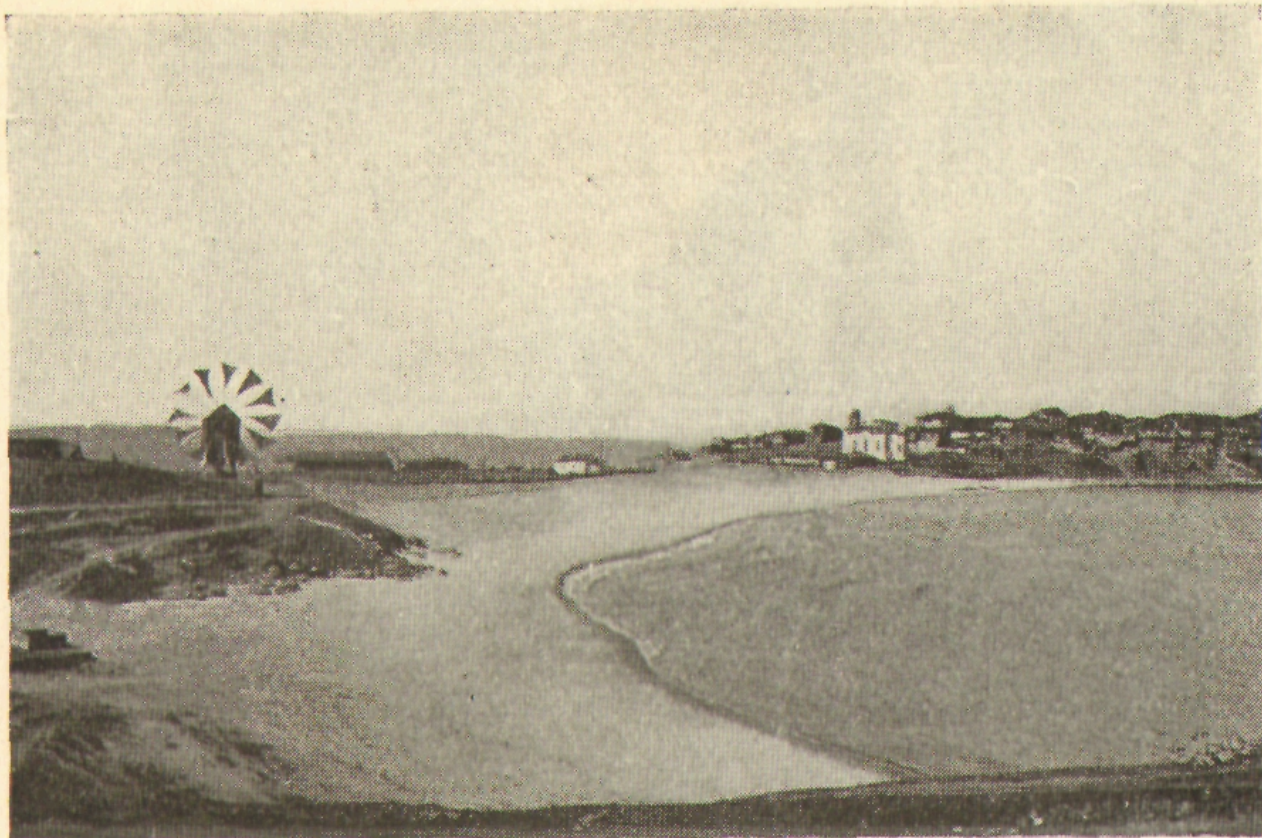


Railway through the Iskar Gorge

THE BULGARIAN-YOUGOSLAVIAN FRONTIER — SOFIA

Calotina. — As soon as he has crossed the Bulgarian-Yougoslavian frontier, the traveller coming by rail from Western Europe, sees on his left a little valley at the bottom of which lies the Calotina village, said to have been founded in the time of the Romans. It was actually through this valley, which is formed by one of the tributaries of the Nishava river, that the Roman road to Byzantium and Asia passed. At a later period the Crusaders followed the same road on their way to Constantinople. There is a church of the 16-th cent. with interesting frescoes in the village.

Berende. — This village, which is situated behind Calotina on the opposite side of the valley, has a small ancient church, with well preserved frescoes dating from the 14-th cent. They are interesting in connection with the history of Bulgarian religious art. In these paintings Christ and the Apostles, in the Passion Scene, are represented as national types, uncouth, with an expression full of suffering and helplessness.



On the Black Sea coast

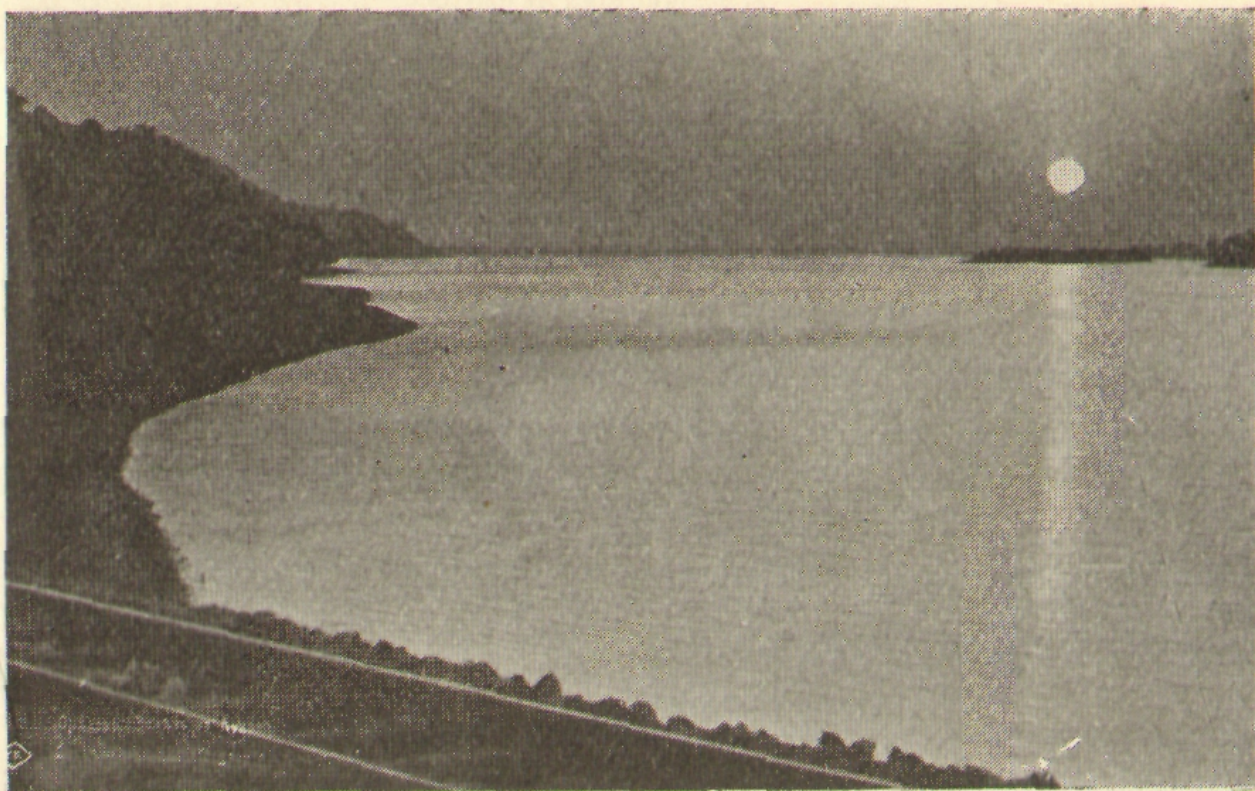
Dragoman. — A small frontier town, where the examination of passports and luggage takes place. The town is known for the fights which occurred in 1885 between here and Slivnitza against the Serbian army which had invaded the Bulgarian Principality of that time.

The Dragoman marsh, surrounded by reeds, is just beyond the station left of the railway line.

Slivnitza. — South-West of this first station after Dragoman there is a monument, erected near the village of Aldomirovtzi, to the memory of the soldiers who fell in 1885 during the first feat of arms of the young army of the new Bulgaria.

Bojurishte. — 8 klm. before Sofia, right of the railway line, there is the air port of Bojurishte. Here the regular flights of the Cidna Company make direct contact by air between Sofia, Western Europe and Constantinople, of the Luft Hansa between Central Europe and Salonica.

Sofia. — Sofia, the present capital of Bulgaria, is situated under Mount Vitosha on the plain bearing the same name.



A view of the Danube

The city, which was formerly an ancient Thracian camp, appears in Roman history as the headquarters of the Serds' Thracian territory. It was taken by Licinus Grassus in the year 29 B. C. At the beginning of the 2nd cent. the Emperor Trajan established a colony of veterans together with some Greek merchants there, and gave the city his family name Ulpia Serdica. From Marcus Aurelius (161—180) to Gallienus (253—280) Serdica had the right to coin its own money; and later on this mint supplied the pay for the troops up to the time of Emperor Constantine the Great. At the moment that the latter, a native of Naissus (Nish), was considering transferring his capital from Rome to the East he hesitated between Serdica and Byzantium, but the advantages of the situation of Byzantium carried the day. In the year 343 the Concilium of Serdica assembled 170 Western and Eastern bishops, who condemned the heresy of Arius.

The town was reduced to ashes a century later by the Attila Huns, who massacred the whole population. The ancient Roman city, which occupied the centre of the present town around the Baths, thus disappeared.

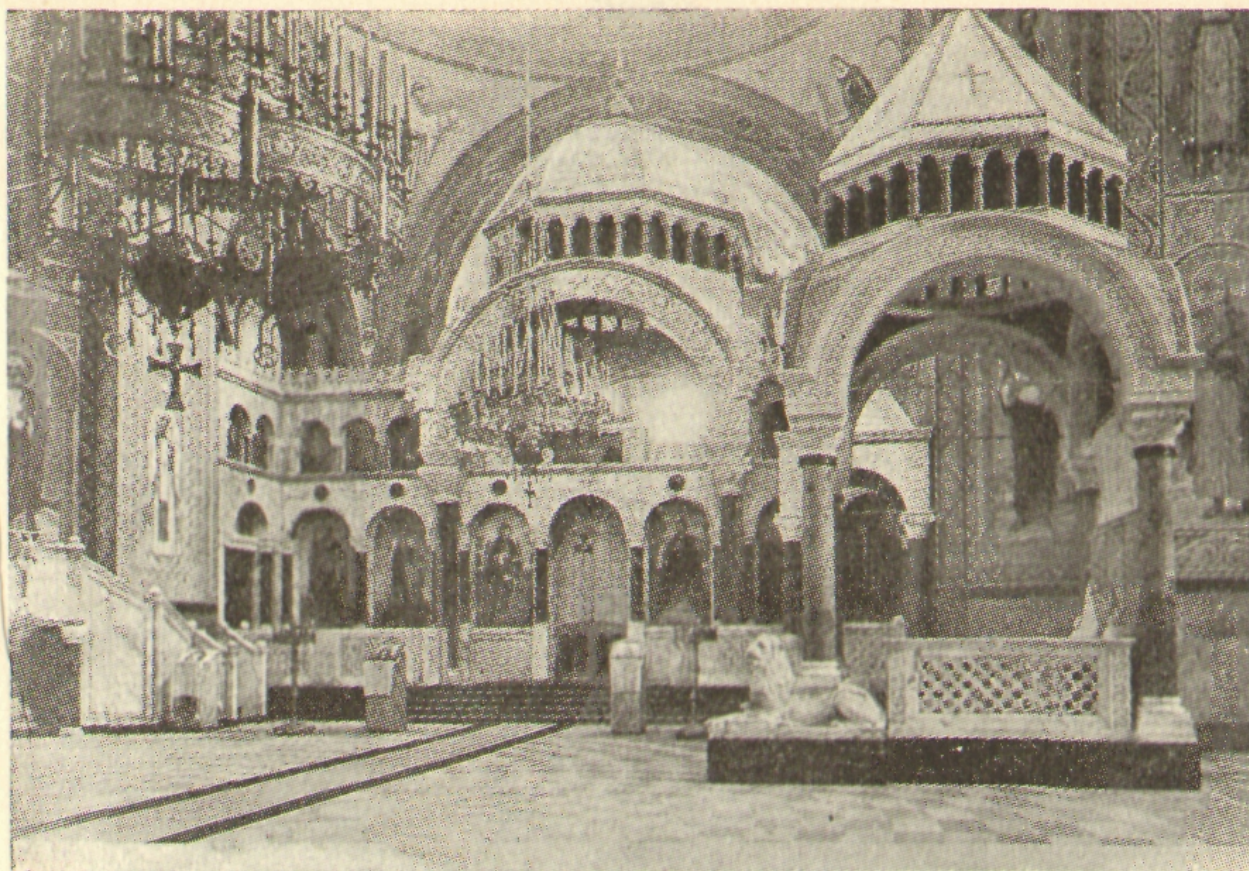


Sofia — St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral

Justinian I (527—565) restored it from the ruins and fortified it. It was at this time that the basilica of St. Sophia, which later gave its name to the town, was built, on the highest part of the city.

In 809 the Bulgarian Khan Krum occupied the town, destroying the Greek garrison which numbered some 6.000 soldiers. It was called Sredetz during the First Bulgarian Kingdom (836—1018) and occupied the centre of the territory. The Greeks named it Triaditza. Upon the downfall of the First Bulgarian Kingdom the Triaditza fortress was the last one, after the death of the last King Ivan Vladislav, to open its gates to the Byzantines (1018). It became under their rule the military base for expeditions in the West against the Serbs and Hungarians. Alexis Comnenus fortified the town, Manuel Comnenus (1143—1180) beautified it.

In 1194 King Assen I took Sredetz from the Byzantines and under the Bulgarian rule the town enjoyed great material and cultural prosperity. It was known since 1329 under the name of Sofia. In 1383 the famous Turkish generalissimo Lala Shahin attempted to take



Interior view of St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral

Sofia and suffered great losses there. In his opinion this formidable stronghold with its 27 gates, 1700 towers and 70.000 embrasures, in the midst of its delightful surroundings, could not be taken by force but only by a ruse. The Governor of Philibey (Plovdiv) Indje Balaban only succeeded, after four years fighting, in taking Sofia through the treachery of Yanco, the Voivod of Sofia. It took the Turks 40 days to raze the fortresses after the town surrendered in 1386. During the Turkish rule, which lasted 430 years, Sofia was the seat of the Beylerbey of Roumalia, who governed 26 Sandjaks of the Balkan Peninsula. During this period the churches were destroyed or turned into mosques, and the Christians were often persecuted. Little by little the town population decreased to only 20.000 souls (1837). The streets were narrow, tortuous and covered in mud. It was only in 1825 that the Bulgarian renaissance started in Sofia by the opening of a school and, a little later, by the establishment of other cultural institutions. The town was liberated on the 23rd of December 1877 by



Thracian Warrior (A Votive Marble Slab)
(National Museum, Sofia)

the Russians, who entered it under the command of General Rauch.

Sofia is to-day the largest and most beautiful town in Bulgaria and has over 250.000 inhabitants. With its numerous and beautiful buildings it has already become a modern town, both pleasant and pretty.

The town is approached from the station by tram, motor car or cab through the Maria Louisa Avenue. The volume of traffic increases after crossing the Bridge of Lions over the canal, formerly a stream before which stood the walls of the town. Some distance along the Avenue, on which some of the largest



Street in Sofia's business centre, with Mt. Vitosha in distance

cinemas are situated, there are the Halls, the covered market, standing on the right side of the Avenue opposite a small garden. The large round building behind the Halls is the Jewish synagogue. The garden covers the site of ancient Roman thermal baths. The modern baths now stand at the back of the garden. These baths are well equipped with modern installations and there is an electro-therapeutic section. The water of the baths has a temperature of 47°C . and a radio activity of 3.6^{10-10} Curies. Its curative properties are recommended for skin diseases, hereditary syphilis, chronic rheumatism etc. and it is classed among the alkaline waters.

There stands at the other end of the garden, at the angle of Maria Louisa Avenue and Targovska street, a reminder of the Turkish domination, namely the Bania Bashy mosque with its very pretty minaret.

The Maria Louisa Avenue finally runs into the Sveta Nedelia square, named after the Cathedral, occupying its centre, which was rebuilt after being destroyed by a criminal outrage in 1925.

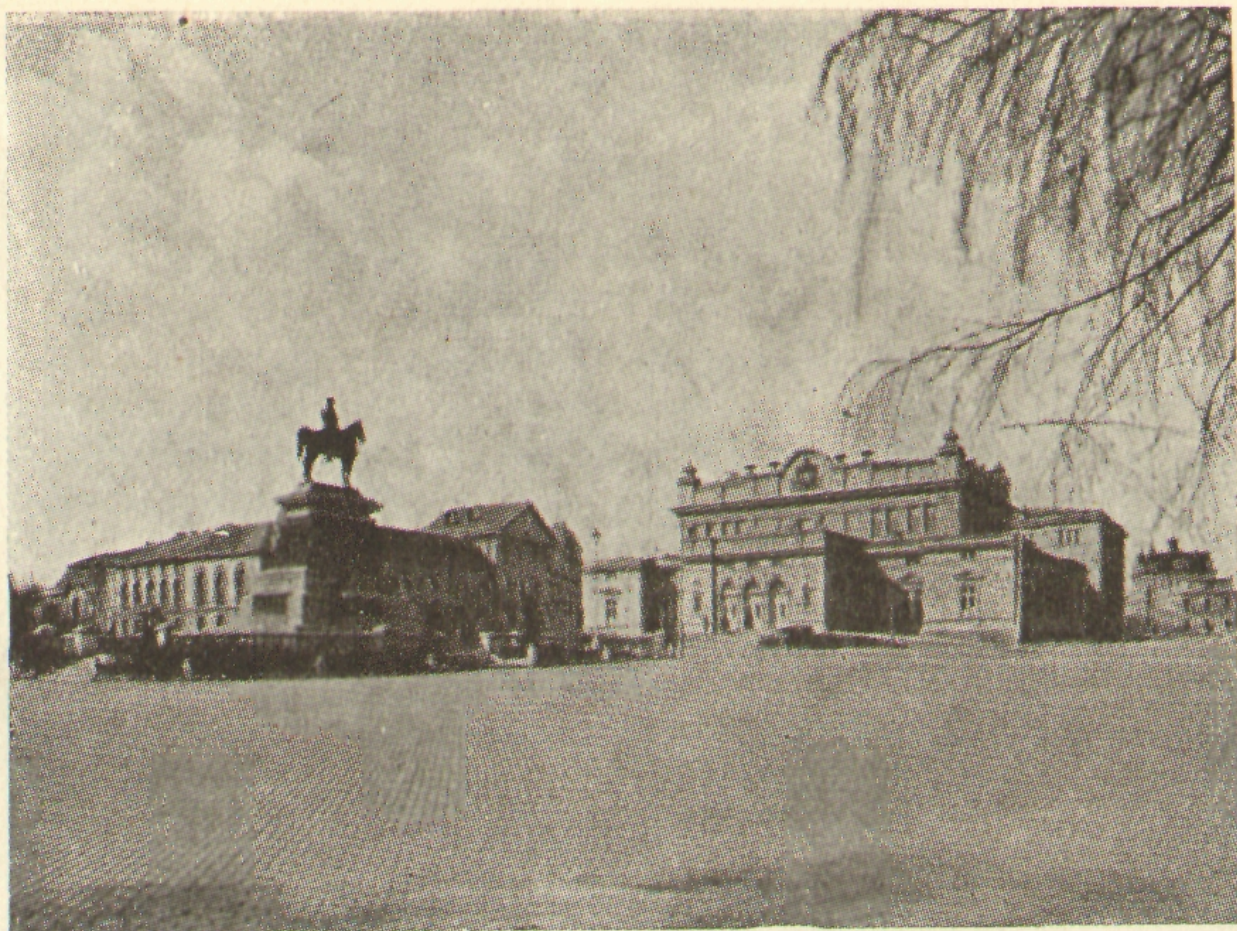


A Bronze Head of Emperor Gordian III
(3th cent. B. C.)
(National Museum, Sofia)

Trams run in all directions of the town and suburbs from this square. Across the square, at the corner of Tzaritza Ioanna street, is a building which houses the Faculty of Theology, whilst the Archiepiscopal Palace of the Metropolitan of Sofia stands more to the East of the square on the right hand side of Princess Klementina street. A little street called Tzar Kaloyan leads from the left side of Princess Klementina street to the Dondukoff Boulevard, through a small square in the centre of which

stand the ruins of Gul-Djami, an ancient Roman bath. It was afterwards transformed into a Christian church, St. George, and later, during the conquest of the Balkan Peninsula by the Turks, it was turned into a mosque. Inside this church there are some very interesting frescoes. Those of the lower layers are of the 12th cent., and those of the upper, which are considered to be the most monumental ancient Bulgarian frescoes, are of the 14th cent. The 24 frescoes in the dome represent the Prophets.

The Royal Palace, which was formerly a Turkish Konak, and has been transformed into a Royal Residence, stands on the Alexander I square, which is reached by continuing along the Dondoukoff Boulevard through the Targovska street, leaving on the



Sofia. The National Assembly und the Monument of the Tzar Liberator .

right Legue street, one of the most important business thoroughfares.

The Royal Residence has been enriched by Tzar Ferdinand and his successor and son, the present Tzar Boris, with collections of chosen painters.

South of the Palace is the Town Garden, to the East of which stands the elegant building of the National Theatre. The theatre which was built on the site of the former theatre, burned down in 1922, was finished in 1928, and by its size and equipment is a practical sign of the love of the Bulgarian people for living art.

The red building on the West of the Town Garden, the Buyuk Djami of the time of the Turks, is the National Archeological Museum and is quite interesting from an architectural point of view. The construction of Buyuk Djami was started by Sultan Mohamed II (1451—1487) who was the conqueror of Constantinople, and finished in 1494. With its cupolas it is described in the 17th cent. as the largest mosque in Sofia. The Museum contains interesting objects of



A street in Sofia

the Thracian, Roman, Byzantine and Bulgarian (two first Kingdoms) periods; as well as many modern works.

From the Eastern gates of the Palace the Boulevard Tzar Osvoboditel starts. The Royal Museum of Natural Sciences stands on the left, in the Palace grounds. It is one of the richest in the Balkan Peninsula and contains complete specimens of the fauna and flora of the country. The museum was created in 1890 by Tzar Ferdinand, a fine connoisseur of the natural resources of the country. In the sphere of natural science he rendered great services to his country; his son, the present Tzar Boris, has inherited these qualities from his illustrious father.

Separated only by a little street from the Royal Museum is one of the prettiest monuments of the Capital — the beautiful Russian church.

Further along the Boulevard on the same side the colonaded building facing a little garden is the Mili-



Sofia. The National Theatre

tary Club, in whose halls the principal fetes, balls etc. of Sofia are held. Still further, is the Tzar Osvoboditel (Tzar Liberator) square in the centre of which, facing the National Assembly, stands the beautiful equestrian statue of Tzar Alexander II of Russia, the Tzar Liberator; the work of the Italian sculptor Zocchi. The passer by, taking his walk along this the most beautiful avenue in Sofia, is reminded by this statue of Russia's liberation of the Bulgarians.

Behind the statue, rather hidden, is the Ethnographical Museum. It has a rich collection of national costumes from the different provinces of Bulgaria, ancient head dresses and examples of early handicraft. There is also the famous cherry wood cannon with which the revolutionists of 1876, whose naiveness was only equalled by their courage and desire for liberty, wished to fight and conquer the numerous armies of the Ottoman Empire.

Passing before the building of the National Assembly, whose facade bears the device "Union is Strength", we reach the Foreign Office, which stands at the West-



Antique Silver Slab
(National Museum, Sofia)

ern corner of the square, with the Academy of Science, completed in 1928, adjoining it. From here the Alexander Nevsky prospect leads to the squares in whose centre stands the magnificent cathedral St. Alexander Nevsky, the work of the Russian architect Pomerantzeff. It was built as a sign of recognition of the liberation of Bulgaria by the Rus-

sians. Its gilded dome can be seen glittering in the sun from a distance of several miles. It is richly decorated and is certainly the finest monument in Bulgaria: altars, thrones, mosaics, frescoes and icons are by the best Russian and Bulgarian painters. The vault of the cathedral serves as a burial place.

On the same square to the west is the St. Sofia church, built in the 6-th — 7-th cent. on the most elevated spot in Sofia, where formerly two primitive churches stood. For a long time it was the largest building in Bulgaria, being described as such by travellers towards the end of the 18-th cent. This imposing one dome basilic contains some floor mosaics obtained from the two little primitive churches which had been built on the same site in the 4-th and 5-th cent. Some mosaics of these churches have also been transported to the National Archeological Museum. In and around the church there are vaulted tombs, which remained from the ancient Christian Necropolis.



Sofia. — The Royal Palace

Frescoes which still exist there clearly show the influence of the East and of Rome; water colour copies of these frescoes are preserved in the National Museum in Sofia. Behind the church, in a grove, under a large stone, is the tomb of Ivan Vassoff, the national poet.

To the South of the St. Sofia church, looking on to the same square, is the Palace of the Holy Synod of the Bulgarian Church; a large building in Bulgarian style, with beautiful decorations on wood in Bulgarian designs. From the point of view of architecture and art the Palace is one of the most successful models of the Bulgarian style and therefore well worth visiting.

To the East of the same square stands the large building of the National Printing House, the best equipped Printing House in the country. South of the National Printing House, the red building is the Academy of Fine Arts, where exhibitions of Bulgarian painters and sculptors take place. In the little park to the East, after the Royal Riding School, is the monument of the Russian doctors who died during the Russo-Turkish war in 1877—78. To the North of the



Burial Plate of Anaxander
(6th to 5th cent. B. C.), Found at Sozopol
(National Museum, Sofia)

The large building North of the park, almost dominating the town, is the Military School, also the War Museum.

National Printing House, on the square, stands the monument of Vassil Levsky, a Bulgarian revolutionist hanged at Sofia by the Turks in 1876.

Coming down again to the Boulevard Tzar Osvoboditel, after the National Assembly, to the left, the large building next to the little garden is the Rectorate of the Sofia University. To the right on the Boulevard Ferdinand, is the Mausoleum of Prince Alexander of Batemburg, the first ruler of the new Bulgaria. Opposite to the Mausoleum is the Zoological Garden, created by Tzar Ferdinand.

The Tzar Osvoboditel Boulevard ends at the Bridge of Eagles, where the Prince Boris park has its main entrance. This is the finest park in Bulgaria, greatly used by the Sofia inhabitants. It is modelled on the largest French parks.



The ancient church. — Boiana

PLACES NEAR AND AROUND SOFIA

Boiana. — A village some 9 klm. from Sofia on the slopes of Mount Vitosha, near a beautiful waterfall. It is connected to the town by a good road and tramway. Above the village in the middle of a pretty grove there is the church of St. Panteleimon, by whose side lies the tomb of Queen Eleonora amidst beautiful flowers. She was the second wife of King Ferdinand. It was at her request that she was buried in this historical spot, whence there is a wonderful view of Sofia and the whole plain, encircled by mountains.

The church was built during three different epochs. The upper part still serves as a place of worship for the villagers. In the crypt, or to be more exact in the lower story, the portion containing the iconostasis dates from the 12-th cent., the central part from the 13-th cent., and the facade and the entrance from the 19-th cent. The frescoes painted on the walls are very interesting for studying the history of religious art



Detail of a Fresco in the Boiana Church

in Bulgaria. Those of the lower layer date from the 12-th cent. and those of the upper from the year 1259. The most interesting point of these frescoes is, that the painter has chosen popular models for his portrayal of Jesus Christ, the Apostles and the Saints, giving them their actual features. For instance, King Constantine Assen represents the Christ enthroned and Jesus Christ

blessing; Queen Irene represents St. Catherine, etc. The expression on the faces and the poses of the different figures are also very characteristic, and show a great development in Bulgarian painting of that period.

The lover of beautiful views and scenery should make the ascent to the Boiana waterfall, half-way up the mountain. He only has to follow the path along the water course.

Bankia. — Possibly the finest watering place in Bulgaria 17½ klm. West of Sofia. It is tucked away in the slopes of Mount Lulin, and is connected to Sofia by railway with constant trains during the season, and also by an excellent road. The baths have quite modern equipment, with various douches, clean basins with abundant crystal clear flowing water. The water is slightly mineral, having the temperature of the human body, 37° C. The predominating properties are sulphate of soda and bicarbonate of soda. In chemi-

cal composition the water resembles Evians — les — Bains and Plombiers in France. Owing to its moderate temperature the Bankia water has a soothing effect, and eases rheumatic pains, old wounds and dislocations. It also has a favourable effect on nervous ailments, neurosis, neurasthenia, chorea, women's diseases and certain chronic skin diseases.

It is very pleasant at Bankia; there are all modern comforts, numerous hotels with different classes of restaurants and a fine park around the baths. The villas scattered on the sides of Lulin, and in the village, give Bankia the appearance of a well arranged West-European spa.

A few klm. from Bankia is the Monastery of Sveta Troitza (Holy Trinity), much visited by tourists.

Gorna Bania. — Mineral baths, 7 klm. from Sofia—Kustendil railway. Can also be reached by the Sofia—Knjaievo tramway, making a part of the journey on foot or by motor car. The sun exposed village possesses hotels and several villas and private houses, where good accommodation is to be found. The curative reputation of these baths draws many people. The water with a temperature of 41° C. is slightly mineral, and the elements composing it are: bicarbonate of soda, magnesia and sulphate of soda. The quality of the water resembles



A Shepherd



Bankia. The Park

Neris and Dax in France, and Teplitz-Schönau in Czechoslovakia. The Gorna Bania water eases rheumatic and neuralgic pains, cures disorders of the abdomen and the skin, and relieves the pains of old wounds and dislocations. It is used extensively for drinking, and is obtainable in the dining cars, restaurants and cafes. It has an agreeable taste, assists digestion and the elimination of waste matter from the alimentary organs etc.

Ovtcha Kupe1. — A mineral spring, 6 klm. from Sofia reached by the Sofia—Knjaievo tramway. It faces a fine park and has pretty surroundings. The new baths buildings are completed and will soon be opened to the public. The present bathing accommodation is primitive.

The water has a temperature of 31.5° C. It is clear, insipid to the taste and gives off a slight sulphurous smell. It has curative properties for the following ailments: rheumatism, neurasthenia, catarrh of the stomach, of the bladder etc. By its chemical



Peasant Girls from the Neighbourhood of Sofia

composition it can be classed among the alkaline sulphuric and radio active mineral waters and it contains some iron.

Kniajevo. — A place where the Sofia residents make excursions. It is 8 klm. from Sofia beyond Ovtcha-Kupel, almost at the entrance of the Vladaia defile, and is reached by tram cars along the Sofia—Kustendil road. There is a pine forest which stretches as far as Vitosha, south of the village. There are several beer gardens and cottages along the stream which runs through the village. Numerous villas are dotted about the village and outskirts. One of the best paths for ascending Mount Vitosha leads through here. Thanks to its nearness to the capital and the convenient communications, it is without doubt the most popular of the Sofia district resorts.

There are two thermal Springs in the village; one in the Eastern part and the other in the Western. The temperature of the water is lower than that of



The park at Bankia

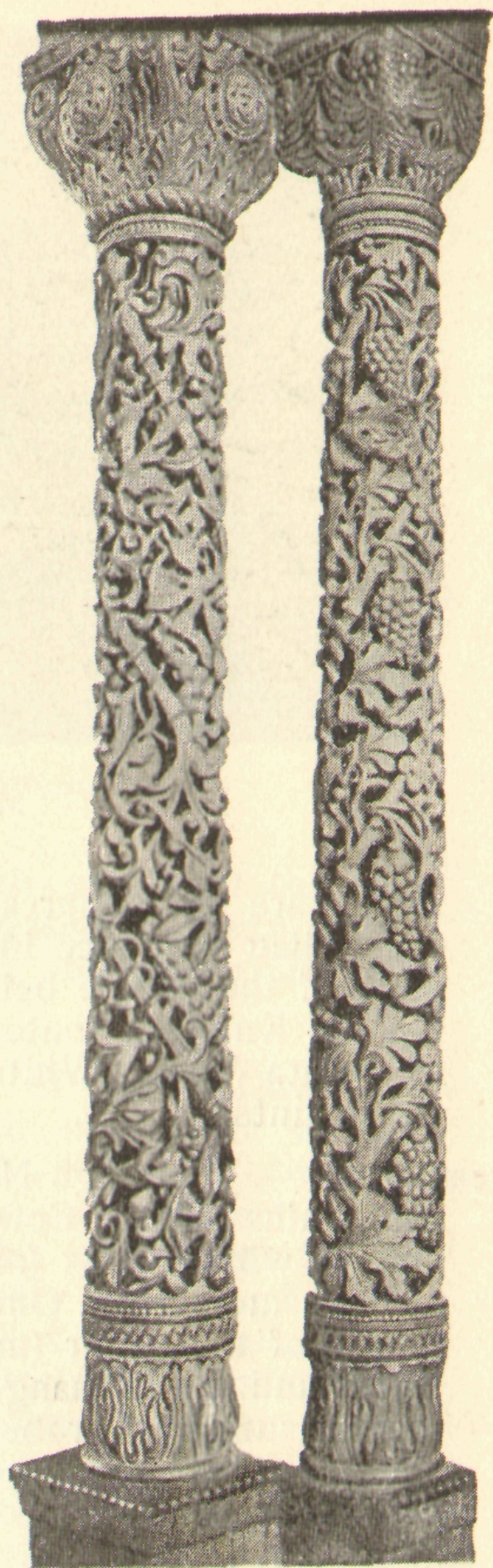
the human body — 22.2° C. in one spring and 25.4° C. in the other. The baths are well patronised, mainly by people suffering from nerves, hysteria etc.

Pantcherevo. — Situated at the entrance to Iskar gorge, about 13 klm. Eastwards of Sofia, on the beautiful Sofia — Samokov road. The village is spread along the banks of the Iskar river which in its descent on the plain throws out a refreshing atmosphere during the whole of the summer. Small restaurants and pretty villas buried among the foliage of large plane trees, lend an attractive aspect to this semi-mountainous and semi-rural resort. The plashing of the river as it leaps from stone to stone on its journey to the plain gives a poetic charm peculiar to Pantcherevo. Just at the entrance of the gorge at the right hand side of the road are the Pantcherevo mineral baths. Its water is clear, colourless, odourless and has no particular taste. Its temperature is 47° C. and can be used for drinking. It relieves rheumatic pains, cures skin diseases, aids digestion, and improves the respiratory system.

Pantcherevo is easily reached by motor car from the capital and this makes it a much frequented spot throughout the season.

Mount Vitosha. — This is the nearest mountain to Sofia. The highest peak Tcherni Vrah (The Black Peak) is 2.286 m. high. Covered for a good part of the year in snow and often hidden in light clouds it draws the vapours of the plain and purifies the air of the capital. Standing above Sofia Mount Vitosha protects it from the cold winds in the winter and oppressive heat in the summer. Its nearness to the capital and its high and large plateaus attract many tourists during the whole of the year who, especially on Sundays and holidays delight to wander breathing in the pure air. In the winter it is mainly popular for skiing. A part of it is covered with woods and fresh spring water can be found everywhere. The Aleko, Fonfoni, Vitosha, Zlatni Mostove (Golden Bridges), Momina Skala etc. huts, erected in most picturesque places, are fitted up for taking light meals there and they provide shelter both to tourists and excursionists at all times of the year.

The easiest route up Vitosha is via Dragalevtzi village or from Kniajevo. The first halt above Dragalevtzi can be made at the Monastery of the same name which was founded by King Ivan Alexander in the 14-th cent. The church of the Monastery is of the 15-th cent. It has frescoes of the same period, most of



Decorated Pillars. St. Nicholas Church — Sofia



Mount Vitosha

which are of a representative character. One notices the Italian influence in the portraits of the donors, the faces of the people being painted with much realism. On the Kniajevo route the first halt is usually made at Belata Voda (White Water), a spring half-way up the mountain.

Kremikovtzi. — A village North of Sofia under the Balkan Mountains with a Convent of the same name. In the church which dates from the 15-th cent., are frescoes of the same period. One notices in the portraits of the family of the donor (man, wife and two children, a priest and an Archangel) the individual characteristics and the sumptuous robes of that period. Richest colours stand out on some portraits of the 11-th and 19-th cent. Icons of the 15-cent. are also preserved there.

Vrania. — This is the country seat of the Royal family. It is surrounded by a beautiful park where rare game is reared. There is a model farm close by. It is only a few klm. from the capital, on the Sofia—Plovdiv road not far from the Iskar river. The ground was bought by Tzar Ferdinand who built here the Château



„Vitosha Hut“ on Mt Vitocha

in ancient Bulgarian Style with motifs of the Rila Monastery. In this castle are conserved many souvenirs of the family of the Coburgs and rich collections of pictures by famous painters.

Tcham-Koria. — 69 klm. South-East of Sofia. There is a good road from the Capital, and motor car service. It is situated in the Rila Mountains, the loftiest in the Balkan Peninsula; its highest point Mussala being 2,923 m. The road, after leaving the plain, follows the Iskar river, crossing the pretty plateau of Samokov and enters magnificent forests spread along the slopes of the Rila. Amidst the forests the elegant villas and good hotels, possessing modern comforts to suit all tastes, are filled during the season by the smartest society from Sofia. Tcham-Koria (Pine Forest) has visitors throughout the year; in winter for the winter sports, for which it is the best place, and in summer for walking tours and as a base for mountain climbing.

The Royal residences — Bistritza, Sitniakovo and Saragiol — have been built on most charming sites with wonderful views of the glorious scenery. They are in Bulgarian style and furnished appropriately.



Forests at Tcham-Koria

Their erection and interior decorations are due to Tzar Ferdinand who was fond of residing there. The present Tzar Boris also often frequents these palaces.

The Rila Mountains. — This is without doubt the most interesting range in the Balkan Peninsula; some of its peaks are covered with snow for the greater part of the year. In the diluvial period they were covered with glaciers which gave the mountains their present character and have left everywhere their traces, such as numberless lakes — over 150 — and boulders. The lakes are at an altitude of over 2,000 m., the frozen lake being 2,779 m., under the highest point of the Mussala (2,923 m.). More than 20 of the peaks are over 2,700 m. high. The fauna and flora of the Rila are very rich and variegated, attracting many students of natural history. The Rila Mountains offer many objectives to tourists: beautiful valleys, glacier lakes with their crystal water, real marvels of nature, and peaks which give wonderful views.

Excursions in the Rila are made on foot or on horseback. The motor road takes a traveller only as



Winter at Tcham-Koria

far as the Rila Monastery, crossing the deep Beli Iskar valley which is called Demir-Kapia (The Iron Gateway). A road is in course of construction through Demir Kapia to Razlog. Tourist huts have been built in the most picturesque places. The Mussala hut which is at a point 2.430 m. high, under the summit of the same name, near the Tzarska Bistritza river, is solidly built and fitted up with sleeping and feeding accommodation. The hut is 3 hours on foot from the Tcham Koria health resort.

The Skakavitza hut is in the North-Western part of the mountain, in the valley of the Skakavitza river — a tributary of the German. It is 4 hours away from the Separevo baths.

The Demir Kapia hut stands in the Beli Iskar valley 18 klm. from the town of Samokov, and possesses a room for tourists.

Samokov. — The Samokov plateau lies between the Vitosha and Rila mountains, and the roads going to Sofia, Kostenetz Bania, Dupnitsa and that leading up to Tcham Koria cross it. The town which is situated



A view in the Rila Mountains

almost in the centre of the plateau, was known during the Turkish domination for its metal handicrafts, which developed there owing to the existence of mines. An original style of Bulgarian architecture developed in the town which at that time was prosperous. Many large houses were built in the town, also churches and monasteries in the vicinity. One can still see some of the houses and churches and admire the paintings and decorations on wood of the Bulgarian renaissance. They have an original stamp, characteristic of Bulgarian art of that period.

SOFIA — KUSTENDIL

Vladaia. — A village built by a stream bearing the same name on the Sofia — Kustendil line, 18 klm. from Sofia, between the Sofia—Kustendil and Sofia—Dupnitsa roads. The cool fresh air attracts very many visitors during the summer, especially on Sundays and holidays. West of the village, on the height which forms the water shed of the Iskar and Struma, stands St. Ni-



A lake in the Rila Mountains

kolas Monastery, with a wonderful view over the gorge and the contours which the mountains form.

Pernik. — A small town situated 31 klm. from Sofia, on the Sofia — Kustendil railway, in the valley of the same name. It was a first class stronghold for the protection of the pass during the Byzantine domination and the first two Bulgarian Kingdoms. It was here that the Voivod Krakra made his name by his heroic struggle against the Byzantines.

Pernik has at the present time the most important coal mines in Bulgaria or even in the whole of the Balkan Peninsula. They are worked on modern lines. In some places coal is found almost at ground level. Several thousand workmen are employed, and the town has become an active industrial centre.

Batanovtzi. — Near the next station. The largest cement factory in Bulgaria stands here.

Radomir. — Leaving Batanovtzi the train crosses the Radomir plain. The town is situated almost in the centre of the plain. The railway line to Dupnitsa begins here, with normal gauge as far as the town and narrow



A view in the Rila Mountains

gauge (60 cm.) thence to the Greek frontier. The road from Sofia branches off here in one direction to Kustendil and the Yougoslav frontier and in the other to Dupnitsa—Gorna-Djumaya—Petritch and Izvorite—Razlog—Nevrokop.

Zemen. — Three stations further on. The Monastery across the railway line, standing on the hill, is a pleasant place to stay at. There is fresh water, pure air and mountain walks in the neighbourhood. It is interesting moreover for the paintings of the 14-th cent. to be seen there. This is one of the best preserved ancient monasteries. Frescoes painted on the walls are typical of Bulgarian ecclesiastical art of that period. The expression on the faces is well portrayed: powerful and strong limbs and bodies, full of life, individualised faces, sturdy attitudes, heavy prominent cheek-bones and eye brows, deep-set eyes; the whole reminding one that the painters took their models from among the popular types of a strong and vigorous race. A detailed study of these paintings as well as of certain others preserved in Bulgaria, helps to establish a connection of style with the numerous paintings of the



The Church of the Zemen Monastery

14-th, 15-th and 16-th cent. found in some of the monasteries on Mount Athos.

Leaving Zemen the railway line enters the mountains, passes through several tunnels and emerges into the picturesque and fertile valley of the Struma river (ancient Strymon); a real garden whose numerous fruit trees bear plums and apples — the best in Bulgaria — which provide the major portion of the export trade.

Rajdavitz. — A village near the railway station in the Struma valley, noted for its excellent cherries. There is a little church of the 15-th cent., in which there are frescoes of that period representing Archangels, which are worth going to see.

Kustendil. — A town at the end of the Struma valley, under the last spurs of the Ossogovo mountain. Above the town on the Hissarlak hill, where pretty villas now stand, are centuries old ruins, among which is the ancient temple of Aesculapius. Kustendil (Pautelia of the Romans) in addition to being a pleasant country resort with numerous gardens in and around it, is also a watering place. The Romans knew this mineral spring and built world famed baths there also their renowned hospital "Asclepium", which was



View of Kustendil

consecrated to the god of medicine Aesculapius and to his daughter Hygeia, the goddess of health. The patients at „Asclepium“ of Pautelia, which consisted of baths, temples and a fine forest, were treated by special physicians and diviners.

The baths of to-day have modern installations. The temperature of the water in the springs is 50 to 70° C.; the water is radio active, 3,7¹⁰—10 Curies, and contains sulphuretted hydrogen, sulphuret of sodium, chloride of soda, sulphate of magnesia, bicarbonate of lime etc. It resembles the waters of Luchon, Bareges and Aix-les Bains in France. It has curative properties for the respiratory organs, emphysema, chronic catarrh, rheumatism etc. There are many comfortable hotels and clean restaurants in the town. In season fruit and grapes are very cheap. The neighbourhood is rich in interesting places for excursions.



Bulgarian Embroidery. Ethnographical Museum Sofia



Spring on the Struma banks

RADOMIR — RILA MONASTERY — PETRITCH

Dupnitza. — A town, important as a centre of the well-known Macedonian tobacco cultivation. It is connected by railway and motor car service with Kustendil via the picturesque Struma valley and stands on the river bank. Through Radomir it is connected to Sofia by road and railway.

Separevo Baths. — These are 14 klm. South of Dupnitza, on the Dupnitza—Samokov road, near the Gorna Bania village, on the Northern slopes of the Rila mountains. The foundations of the Roman baths which stood here still exist. There are ruins near the baths of a Roman town built on the German river, which seems to have been important. It is a picturesque situation, 725 m. above sea level. The temperature of the water in the basin is 68° C. The Separevo baths are noted for their curative properties.

In the Gorna Bania village there is a little church whose central masonry is of the 13th cent. and interesting from a constructional point of view.



The Rila Monastery

Rila Monastery. — The railway from Dupnitsa is narrow gauge 60 cm. It runs parallel with the road following the Struma river as far as Kotcherinovo, a village where good Macedonian tobacco is obtained; and then, through the Rila village, following the Rilska river, it goes on into the Rila Mountains. The largest Monastery of Bulgaria stands in a semi wild valley, near a rushing torrent, amidst magnificent forests. It is reached by the narrow gauge railway or motor car.

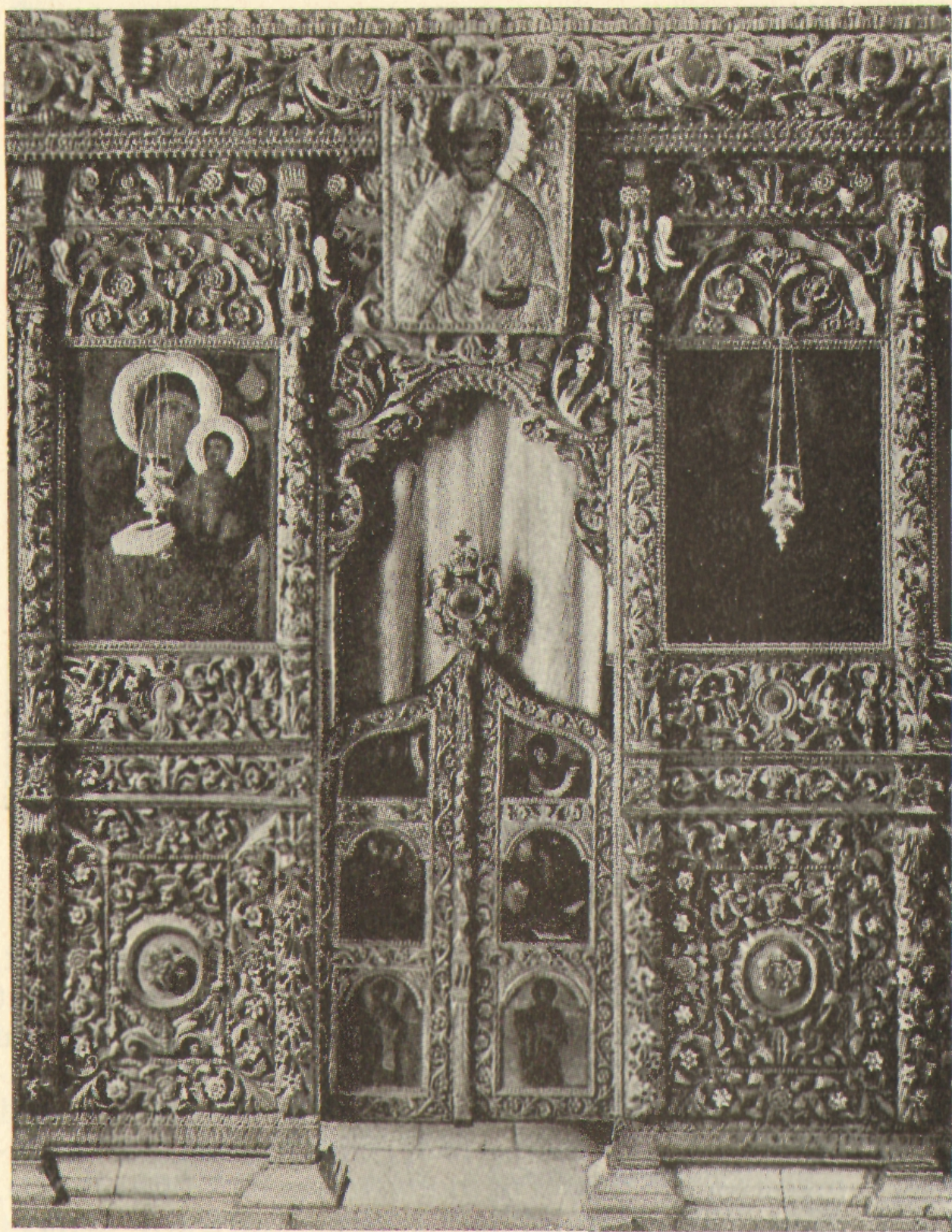
The hermit saint St. John of Rila, who gave his name to the monastery, lived in this wilderness in the 10th cent. He tried by personal example to overcome the sect of Bogomilism and to revive monastic life in the country.

This monastery has always preserved its strictly Bulgarian character and during the five hundred years of Turkish domination it was a light in the darkness comforting the national soul and maintaining the hope for independence among the people.



The Rila Monastery

The monastery itself was built in the 14th cent. (1335), but there only remains, from the building of that time the five-storied tower of Sevastocrat Hrelu by the side of the church; the other buildings having been destroyed by fire in 1833. The present Monastery and church were built in 1833—1837. The plan of the monastery, made on the model of monasteries of Mount Athos, is a four-storied building, whose outward aspect resembles a fortress. The three lower stories have stone colonades in Italian Renaissance style, whilst the wooden balconies and columns of the fourth story are done in Bulgarian style. The wood carvings in the cells are in Turkish style. The church, as the monastery, is built after the style of Mount Athos; it has three apses and three naves, five domes and still further apses on the Northern and Southern sides. There are square chapels on both sides, which are a novelty for this style. It was the largest monastery



The iconostasis in the Rila Monastery Church

church in the Ottoman Empire during the middle of the 19th cent. It is worth while to see in the interior the iconostasis, the icons, the frescoes and the portraits of the donors, which are all of the 19th cent. The monastery Museum contains precious and very interesting souvenirs and religious objects of the 14th to the 19th centuries. The relics of St. John of Rila are guarded in the church. In the Middle Ages they



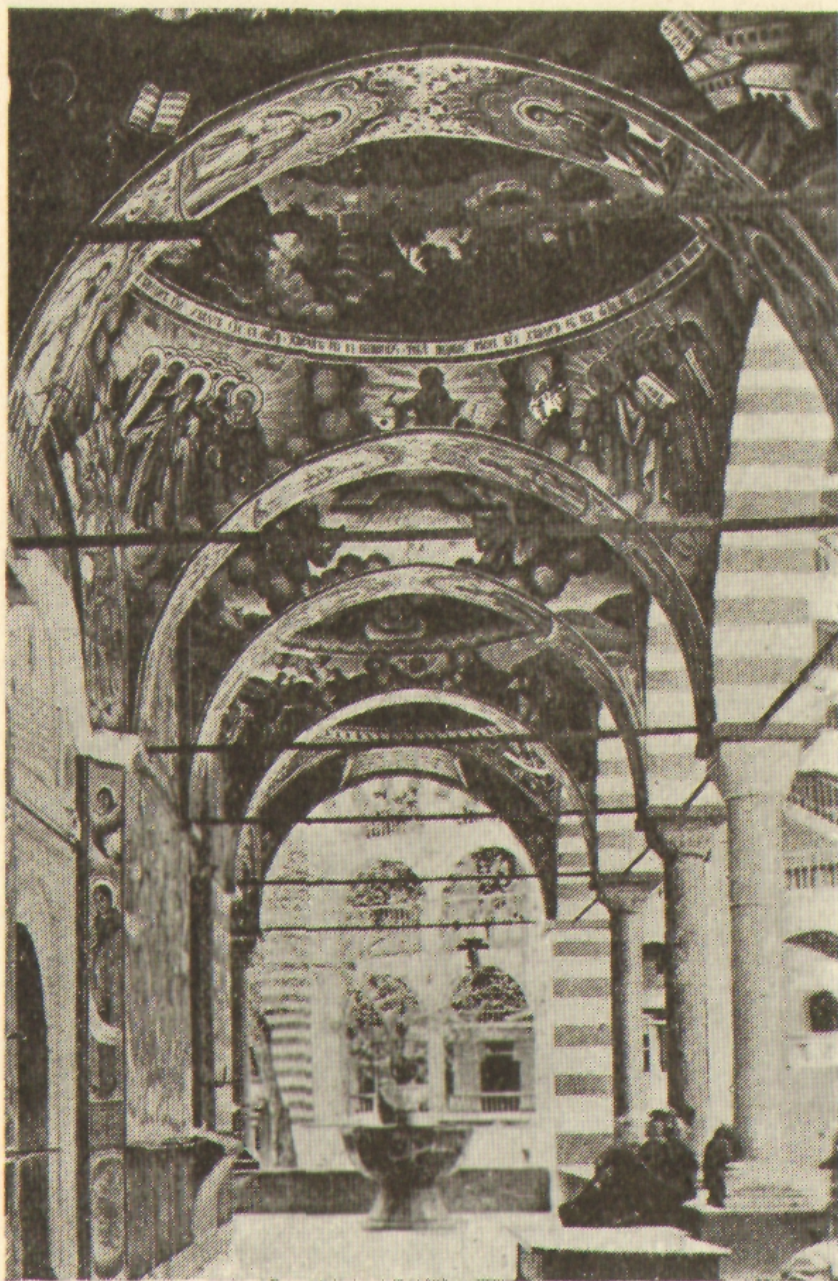
The Court-Yard of the Rila Monastery

were for a certain time in Sofia, then in Tirnovo and were brought back to the Rila Monastery in 1469.

Gorna Djumaya. — A little town at the mouth of the Kresna gorge, reached from Dupnitsa by the road or narrow gauge railway, which follow the Struma river. It is an ancient settlement which was called in the time of the Romans *Scaptopara*. One can still see Roman ruins and the remains of ancient buildings there.

There are mineral baths and springs in the Northern part of the town. The temperature of the water is between 52° and 55° C. It has curative properties for ailments of the muscles, interaricular rheumatism, neuralgia etc. The mountain air and easy communications attract a large number of visitors to Gorna-Djumaya.

Sveti Vrach. — 18 klm. from Gorna Djumaya is Izvorite station, near which lies the village of Simitli, where there is a well arranged mineral bath. After the sta-



Interior view of the Rila Monastery Church

tion the highway and the narrow gauge line to Petritch enter the 25 klm. long Kresna gorge, through which the Struma river runs. This gorge separates the Rila and Ossogovo mountains. It is very picturesque; fields and vineyards are found on both sides and seem to be suspended above the water.

The village of Sveti-Vratch is about 24 klm. this side of Petritch, and four klm. to the East of the railway. There are two mineral springs here, one in the

village and the other in the immediate neighbourhood. The Sveti-Vratch waters are the hottest in Bulgaria, having temperatures which, according to the springs, run from 49° to 83° C.

Melnik. — A town to the South-East of Sveti-Vratch, isolated in the mountains; famous for its wines. One can see there curious caves hollowed out in the rocks.

Petrich. — A town enjoying a very mild climate, only a few klm. away from the Bulgar — Greek frontier and 25 klm. from Sveti Vratch, going South.

**GORNA-DJOUMAIA
— RAZLOG — NE-
VROKOP**

Mehomia or Razlog. —

A well kept highway with organised regular motor car services leads down from Simitli, through picturesque scenery into the valley of Razlog, through which runs the Mesta river (Nestus). To the North rises the Rila range and in the South the Pirrin Mountains. The town of Mehomia or Razlog, which is the base for ex-



Rila Monastery — A Monk painting

cursions to Pirrin, Rila and the Rhodopes, stands on both banks of the river, almost in the middle of the valley. There are a number of thermal springs in the valley, some of which having been adapted for baths, make a pleasant watering place. Among them we may mention the warm baths of Bania, five klm. South-East of Mehomia, known for the ir curative properties, and those of Dobriniste, under the Pirrin slopes, 7 klm. from Mehomia.

Pirrin Mountains. — The whole Razlog valley is a pleasant watering place to which to retire. It includes, with the two towns Mehomia and Bansko, 12 villages, and is situated between the Rila, Pirrin and Rhodope Mountains, which are covered with old pine and fire forests, with plenty of water and an excellent climate.

The tourist hut Banderitza. at an altitude of 1.770 m., 14 klm. away, is easily accessible from the littel



Rila Monastery — A Monk at Work

town of Bansko. It is the starting point for El-Tepe, the Todorin Peak, Papazgiol and the three lakes above El Tepe, all of them on the Pirrin Mountains, which numerous folk songs have described as the refuge for rebels in the time of the Turkish domination. There is another hut called Pirrin, 8 klm. from Nevrokop. From it one can visit the lakes Papazgiol, Vassilash, Momini Dvori (Courts of the Maidens), and Demir Kapia.

Nevrokop. — The road to Nevrokop passes through the valley of the Mesta river which divides the Pirrin from the Rhodopes. The road from Mehomia via Bansko goes through romantic scenery as far as Nevrokop. About 5 klm. from the town are the ruins of the ancient Roman town Nicopolis ad Nestos, which are well worth visiting. There are mineral baths which were already known at the time of the Romans, some 10 klm. from Nevrokop near Fofovishte village, connected to the town by highway. The temperature of the water is 39° C. It can be classified among the ferro-sulphurous waters.

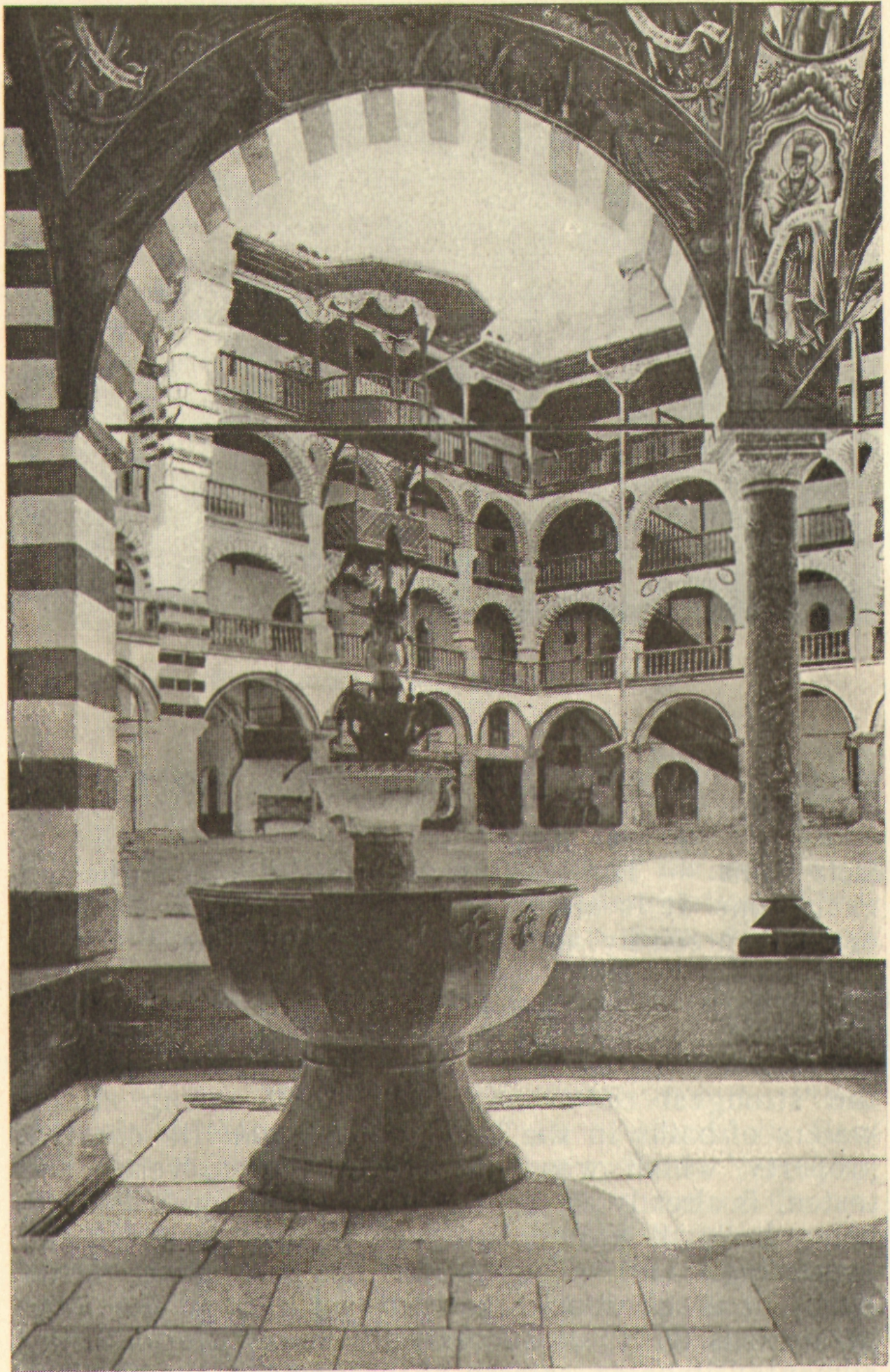


Rila Monastery

SOFIA — PLOVDIV — THE RHODOPES — SREDNA-GORA SVILENGRADE

Kostenetz Bania. — The starting point for several baths and excursions. It is about half way by train to Plovdiv, or more precisely about 75 klm. from Sofia.

Momina (Solu Dervent). — Mineral baths 3 klm. North of Kostenetz Bania railway station. They are noted for the radioactivity of their water, 580^{10-10} Curies, being the strongest radio emanation found among all the waters of baths in the Balkan Peninsula. Its curative property, which was only recently discovered and tested, is already attracting much attention. Villas are being built all around and their number is constantly increasing. The spring water has a slightly bitter taste; it is clear and has no smell, and the temperature is 65° C. It successfully cures the following ailments: diabetes, catarrh of the stomach, rheumatism, skin diseases etc. It is also specially recommended for cancer.



Rila Monastery. A Fountain



Melnik, a town moved for good wine



Pirin — A Winter Scene

Kostenetz. — The summer resort of Kostenetz is about 7 klm. from the railway station, near a pretty water fall, under the slopes of the Belmeken peak, which is one of the highest of the Eastern Rila. There is a mineral bath almost immediately below the water fall. The water is clear, contains radio emanations, is agreeable to drink and has a temperature of 41.5° C. This resort is very much visited, owing to its mountain air, the Alpine scenery surrounding it, and the mineral and sweet waters which abound there.

A deep valley along which winds a stream crossed many times by the path, leads into the interior of the mountains.

Private villas, restaurants and hotels offer the visitor comfortable accommodation and regular motor car services connect this watering place with the railway station.

Dolna Bania. — This resort is situated 7 klm. West of the railway station, on the Kostenetz Bania—Tcham Koria—Samokov road. It is in the middle of a beautiful valley,



Pirrin — Looking Towards El-Tepe

14 klm. long and nearly 8 klm. wide and is surrounded on all sides by mountains which protect it from cold winds. The Bistritza stream passes through here and the Maritza river which takes its rise in the Rila mountains runs by the village barely 200 m. away. Dolna Bania stands 605 m. above sea level and enjoys a mild, very agreeable and healthy mountain climate. The baths, which are arranged with separate basins for men and women, are new and are equipped with modern installations. The water is clear and pleasant to drink. It has a faint smell of sulphur; the temperature is 56.2°C , with a radio activity of 46 to 58^{10-10} Curies. Owing to its geographical position Dolna Bania has no great changes in temperature, which makes it pleasant for cures during both summer and winter. For nature lovers there are some splendid places in the neighbourhood for excursions. From here can be reached Belmeken, the Maritza sources, Ibar, Mussala, Laeto and the Bistritza gorge. Pleasant walks can also be taken in the immediate neighbourhood amidst beautiful scenery.



Sun-Set on Pirrin

Kovanlak Baths. — About 9 klm. from Kostenetz station in picturesque surroundings. Water is plentiful; its temperature being 73°C . with a radio activity of 11110—10 Curies. These baths have been known by the population for their curative properties for a considerable time and are much frequented. In the neighbourhood there are some very interesting walks. There is a good service to the railway station.

Belovo. — Is the second railway station after Kostenetz Bania going towards Plovdiv, situated on the Maritza river. There are white marble quarries near the station. Mediaeval ruins are to be seen near the village, which lies a few klm. to the South. Belovo is mainly of interest as a point of departure for the Rhodopes; especially for Ioudola.

Ioudola. — A distance of 27 klm. from Belovo station by road following the J denitza mountain stream through the gorge. Can also be reached via Ladjene (16 klm.) or coming via Razlog — Iakoruda. Ioudola is a large basin-like plateau in the Rhodopes, surrounded by mighty pine and fir forests. It is a pleasant health



Winter on Pirrin

resort, very popular among rural holiday makers and tourists. At Kurtovo, near Ioundola, are many huts of the Karakatchan — nomad shepherds — who pass the summer on these heights. The great forest of Geshova Planina begins here. Ostovitza near which begins the Jadenitza is 2—3 klm. beyond the huts.

Ioundola will soon be connected by a 76 klm. narrow gauge railway, running to Nevrokop through really enchanting spots, via the Mesta valley, with Avramovi Kolibi (Abraham Huts), Tchepino Bania and Ladjene.

Sarambey. — The station after Belovo where the train makes a longer stop. It is the market for luscious fruit and excellent grapes. The narrow gauge railway branches off here, being rejoined at the first station, at the entrance to the Elli Dere gorge, by a branch line coming from Tatar-Pazardjik.

Tchepino. — The little valley of Tchepino about 30 klm. from Sarambey, is reached by train or road through the very beautiful gorge along the Elli Dere river. Thermal springs and a rather primitive bath are seen on



Harvesting

the way, near Varvara. This is one of the prettiest valleys in the Rhodopes, 800 m. high, surrounded by mountains with many streams running through it. Here are 7 villages, in all of which visitors can stay; Rakitovo, Kostandovo, Dorkovo, Korovo, Kamenitza, Ladjene and Tchepino Bania.

Ladjene. — A large village, 37 klm. from Sarambey, which, with its hotels, restaurants, elegant villas and its theatre, already constitutes a small town. It is a fine watering place, well supplied with mineral waters and much visited during the season. There are two mineral baths in the village itself — one for men and one for women. They are both in the centre of the village, which lies on both sides of the Lukovitza stream. The temperature of the water in one bath is 62° C. and in the other 53° C. Both waters have soothing effects on the nervous system, neurasthenia etc. They cure skin diseases, inter-articular rheumatism etc.

About one klm. from the village, by the Ladjene—Ioundola road, lies the modern mineral bath Veliova Bania, on the bank of the stream and surrounded by a beautiful park. The water is plentiful, clear, of a pleasant taste, colourless, with a temperature of 44° C,



Bansko Village, with Mt Pirin in background

This water aids digestion, strengthens the functioning of the kidneys and acts very favourably on the genital organs, also helping the cure of skin diseases, rheumatism etc.

Tchepino Bania. — Stands at the entrance to a very picturesque gorge, 3 km. south of the railway passing through Ladjene. some km. South of Tchepino Bania, in a forest rich in vegetation, near the Elli Dere river, are interesting grottoes. There are thermal springs with two mineral baths for men and women respectively, in the same gorge near the river and about 1 km. above the village. One bath has a temperature of 48°C . with a radio activity of 81^{10-10} Curies and the other 47.8°C . with a radio activity of 71^{10-10} Curies. The waters according to their composition can be classified as oligometallic, with a predominance of bicarbonate of soda (0,0549), bicarbonate of lime (0,129), and sulphate of soda (0,35).

Like the Ladjene waters those of Tchepino Bania can also be used as a bath, as a drink and for irrigation purposes, and they have almost the same curative properties. They are sedative, relieve neuralgic and rheumatic pains, sciatica, accelerate cicatrization, heal old wounds, sprains and dislocations, and relieve



Bansko — The Clock Tower

ailments of the nervous system (chorea and neurasthenia), heal disorders of the female genital organs (dysmenorrhea, metritis, salpyngitis etc.) and certain skin diseases.

Taken as a drink it acts favourably on weak stomachs and catarrh of the stomach, intestines and lungs. The water is diuratic, eliminates the residue of the functioning of the organism and throws off harmful waste products.

Tchepino is a health resort in addition to being a watering place. Large pine forests begin East and South of the village. There is some very fine scenery in the gorge. There is a mountain spring at a spot called Kleptusa, some 100 m. from the village, which flows in great volume into the stream during the whole of the summer. There is a refreshment hut amidst beautiful vegetation above the spring. A very pleasant path, covered with foliage and crossing and crossing and recrossing the river, leads to the Mineral Baths.

Kamenitza. — A village with a well arranged mineral bath about a klm. and a half North of Ladjene. The temperature of the water is 68° C. Thanks to its chemical composition this water has an anti-catarrhal and diu-



„Tzarska“ (or Imperial) River midst the Rhodopian forests

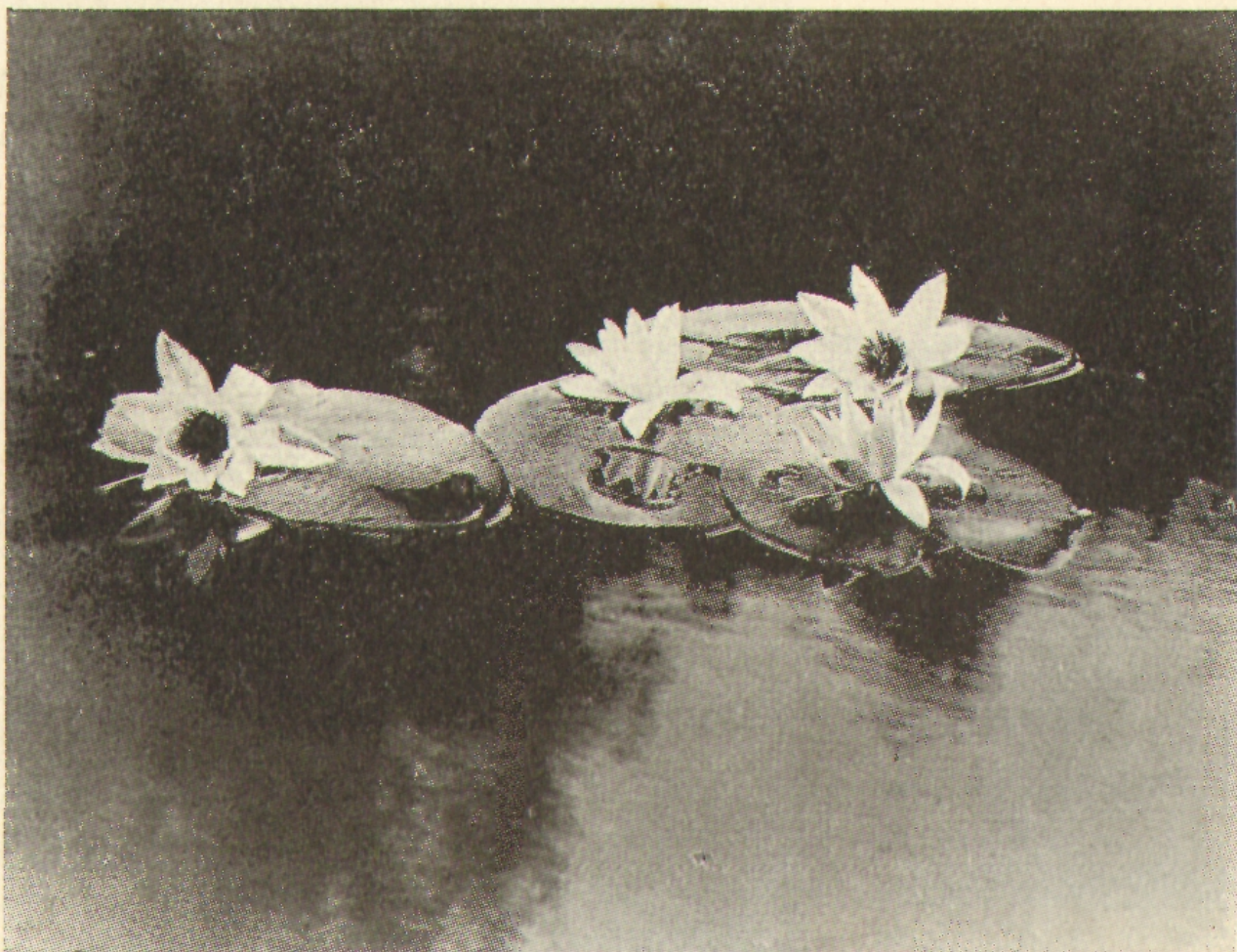
ratic action. Its healing properties are also effective on the skin, the respiratory organs, kidneys, stomach, intestines; and digestion is assisted. As a bath, but especially as a drink, it assists the elimination of organic waste; chlorides, sulphates and uric acid, and retards the separation of phosphoric acid. It is also useful for lymphatic conditions, and for tendencies towards tuberculosis, as it retards too active organic combustion. By its physico-chemical quality the water of Kamenitza baths resembles those of Luchon, Amalies-les-Bains and Caunterets in France.

There are hotels, restaurants, cafes etc. at Kamenitza, and the visitor can spend a cheap season there.

The hospital for the Tchapino district which has been transformed into a sanatorium, is at Kamenitza.

Nature lovers can make excursions from the Tchapino valley to Ioundola (16 klm.), the grotto of Lepcinitza (a days march), the Sutka summit, Belmeken summit, the forest of Tchekladovo etc.

Batak. — A village 30 klm. from Tchapino by a lake of the same name, reached from Tchapino by the road



Water-lilies on Tzarska rives

going East, crossing the large village of Rakitovo and a forest. There is another road to it from T.-Pazlardjik station through the town of Peshtera. A few km. from Peshtera is the Monastery of St. Constantine, a very pleasant health resort with wonderful water, beautiful scenery and good motor car connections with Peshtera and T.-Pasardjik station. It is a very popular place during the summer.

Batak is a large village secluded under the Southern slopes of the Rhodopes and is known for the sad events which took place there after the rising of April 1876 — the prelude to the liberation of Bulgaria from the Turkish yoke. The village was invaded and burned by the Bashi Bazouks, irregular Turkish soldiers. From here the Plovdiv—Dospat road leads into the heart of the Rhodopes, where large plateaus, on which pine and fir forests alternate with meadows, spread out. Fresh water is abundant everywhere. The Kalak, Semise and Samr-Alan peaks, with beautiful views, can all be reached in a days march from Batak.



Kostenetz waterfall



Sveta Petka Village near Ioundola

The Rhodopes. — The Rhodopes are a system of mountains which rise East of Rila. They extend Northwards to the Thracian plain, Eastwards as far as the Maritza river and in the South to the coast of the Aegean Sea. The greater part of the Rhodopes lies within the Bulgarian frontier. Homer himself speaks of these mountains. According to legends Orpheus lived in the Rhodopes. Traces of old temples consecrated to the god Dionysos and other gods of ancient times can still be seen.

From both North and South many little valleys penetrate the Rhodopes; thereby assisting the tourist to reach the interior of the mountains.

Dospat. — The road here from Batak also leads to Nevrokop. It runs through pretty scenery and there is a regular motor car service.

Diovlén. — A little town, the centre of the Pomaks — Bulgarians who accepted Islam in the time of the Turkish rule, but who have retained the Bulgarian language. It is reached from Dospat by the road running North—East through mountain waste land. The little town lies on the banks of the Vatcha which runs into the Thracian plain near Kritchim, across forest covered



Avramovi Kolibi

mountains. There is a very large power station there constructed some years ago. A road is now being built along the river side which will connect Diovlen with Plovdiv by regular motor car service running on the Tchepelare — Stanimaka — Plovdiv road. It can be reached from Diovlen by an interesting route.

Tatar-Pazardjik. — The next station after Sarambey on the Sofia — Plovdiv railway. The town lies North of the station on the other side of the Maritza. In the town can be seen the church of the Holy Virgin, which contains the most remarkable iconostasis in Bulgaria (Debar school), with scenes from the Old and New Testaments and pictures by the painter Stanislav Dospevsky. The town is noted as the centre for the best rice, which is grown in the neighbourhood as well as around Plovdiv; also for its wines.

Just in front of the town to the West, the Topolnitsa river, which rises in the Sredna Gora, runs into the Maritza. The Belgrade — Sofia — Plovdiv — Adrianople — Constantinople highway, which breaks away from the railway line at Ihtiman and enters the Thracian plain at Vetren through a beautiful pass,



A street in Tchepino Bania

runs by Tatar-Pazardjik. The ruins of an ancient Byzantine fort which guarded the pass can still be seen at the exit of the pass. It would seem that the Crusaders in the Middle Ages took this road on their way to Constantinople. The Vetren village itself boasts that the French poet Lamartine, on his return from the East, stayed here to recover from an illness. He came into direct contact with the Bulgarian people here and already in the first half of the 19th cent. recognised that this race was ripe for independence.

Panagurishte. — A town standing 42 klm. North of T.-Pazardjik in one of the most beautiful regions of the Sredna Gora. It is connected with T.-Pazardjik by a good road and motor car service; also directly with Sofia (102 klm.) by the road going via Pirdop. It will soon be connected by railway with Plovdiv, to which it is already linked up by a highway.

Panagurishte is noted for the rising of 1876, which was known as the rebellion of Panagurishte, or the April rebellion. Near the town in a forest, is the historical place Oborishte where the date of the rising was decided. The Sredna Gora mountains are covered with large oak forests in the neighbourhood of Panagurishte. The average height of these moun-



Harvesting Tabacco

tains is 1000 m. and they can be ascended from all points. The finest peaks whence one has splendid views, are: Bogdan (1.573 m.), Lissetz (1.382 m.), and Russalitza. The „Summer Colony“ on the Pirdop—Panagurishte road is a pretty and healthy place patronised by professors, teachers and children. There is both a hotel and a tourist hut. Panagurishte is also noted for its carpet industry.

The Bania Mineral Baths. — Situated 8½ klm. West of Panagurishte, 7 klm. from the T.-Pazardjik—Panagurishte road. The water in the men's bath has a temperature of 39° C. and in the womens, 42° C. These waters have been found to have a curative action on the following ailments: hysteria, neurasthenia, pains in the spinal marrow, paralysis, neuralgia, haemorrhoids, anaemia, chlorosis and diabetes. The curative properties of these waters are highly esteemed by the population.

This watering place is situated in one of the best corners of Bulgaria. All around are large oak forests, which offer picturesque and pleasant walks and excursions, such as to Gradishteto, the Monastery of the Holy Trinity. There are clear streams everywhere. All necessary accommodation can be found here for spending a delightful holiday or taking a cure.



Perushtitza — drying tobacco

The Streltcha Mineral Baths. — In the southern part of the village on the Luda Iana river, 14½ klm. from Panagurishte, — situated in a picturesque valley on the slopes of the Sredna Gora. Like many other country places in Bulgari, Streltcha is a holiday resort as well as a watering place. Very pleasant and interesting walks can be taken among the meadows, vineyards, orchards and rose fields as well as in the pine forests. The Streltcha baths have been known for a long time. The water has a temperature of 40.8° C. and is wellknown for its curative properties, and is radioactive. There is a motor car service from here to Plovdiv and, via Panagurishte, to T.-Pazardjik.

Plovdiv (Philippopolis). — Plovdiv, the ancient Philippopolis, situated in the fertile Thracian plain, on the Sofia—Constantinople line where it branches to Bourgas and Stanimaka, has a specially picturesque aspect, owing to the five syenite hills. Its economical and strategical position at the junction of the main lines of communication has always enabled it to play an important role.

According to legends it was here that Orpheus performed his wonders and his pupil Eumolpe is said to have given the town its first name (Eumolpiade).



Sorting Tobacco

At the dawn of history, its Acropolis, a veritable eagle's nest, was used as a fortified out-post by the Odrysses, inhabitants of the Hebre (Maritza) plain, against the bellicose Besses of the Rhodope mountains, the jealous protectors of the Dionysos oracle. Owing to the fratricidal wars of the Thracian tribes Philip II of Macedonia took the town without difficulty and established a military post there. A penal colony for 2.000 Phoceans which was set up there gave the name of Poneropole to the town. Later on in honour of its founder, the town was called Philippopolis, which the Thracians changed into Pulpodeva, the Slavs into Plovdiv and the Bulgarians of the 17th cent. to the temporary name of Philipovgrade. The Turks pronounced it Philibe, and after 1850 the Slavonic name of Plovdiv was readopted by the Bulgarians.

Under-Roman rule, Domitian (91 — 96) organised Flavia Philippopolis, already the capital of the Moesia, after the model of a Greek commune and granted it the status of a city, with the right to mint the Imperial money. These coins are of a very interesting and varied type up to the year 260. They perpetuate old myths such as Rhodopi Stymon's daughter, changed into a mountain, showing the pretty Haberlea



Harvest time

Rhodopensis which flourishes only in the Rhodopes; Orpheus enchanting with the sounds of his lyre wild beasts lying at his feet; Bacchus adorned with vine branches and grapes enthroned as the god of vineyards; the god of Hebreia leaning on the rocks or going down the Maritza.

Emperor Trajan beautified the town and honoured it with his name Ulpia Trimonium, Marcus Aurelius (172 A. D.) surrounded it with a strong wall a part of which between Nebet and Djambas Tepe, known under the name of Hissar Kapia, still exists. Septimius Severus (193—211) promoted it to the rank of the Metropolis of Thrace; Caracalla (211—217) established the Provincial Assembly here and in 214 organised Alexandrian Thracian games in honour of Alexander the Great; Heliogabalus (218—222) substituted them with Kendrisian Pythian games in honour of Apollo and gave the city the title of Neokoria. Lucianus enthusiastically praises this largest of all



The „Horo“ — Bulgarian National Dance

towns whose splendour enchants from afar, and whose three Acropolises rise gloriously in the wide plain which lies sheltered and secluded between the grand mountains of Hemus and the Rhodopes.

The prosperous period of the town soon came to an end; in the year 251, 7,000 Goths from Kniva destroyed it and massacred 100,000 men. It was restored but again pillaged by the Sarmates whom Constantine the Great drove out in the year 322. Julian the Apostate hastened here in 361 in order to ensure the succession of Constantius. Then successively passed through here the Visigoths (376—378), the Attila Huns (447), the Ostrogoths, the Avars, the Slavs and the Bulgarians who were all attracted by the glamour of Byzantium. The Bulgarian Khan Krum took this place for the first time in the year 812. In 927 Simeon the Great included it in his vast Empire. In 970 Svetoslav's Russians reduced it to ashes and exterminated the 20,000 defenders with most cruel tortures.



Plovdiv — A Street in the Old Town

In the following year Philippopolis was rebuilt under the rule of the Comneni and again flourished, embellished with magnificent palaces, churches and monasteries, and defended by strong walls and a moat. Anna



Plovdiv — A Street in the old Town

Comnenus described it as Megalopolis and the Crusaders found it „mou't belle“.

The Crusaders of Godefroy de Boullion halted here at the time of Kaloian, and the Germans under Con-



Plovdiv — General view

rad III in 1147 pillaged the suburbs; Frederick Barbarossa stayed 6 months here. He found it deserted on his arrival and burned it before he went on to Asia Minor. The Emperor Isaac the Angel restored it immediately and used to reside here. Philippopolis was handed over to Boyard Ivanko in 1196; then Baudoun de Flandre entrusted the Duchy of Philippopolis to the Knight Renier de Tritt (1204) but after the battle of Klokotnitsa (1230) when Theodore Comnenus of Epirus was defeated, Ivan Assen II became its ruler. Later on it was retaken by the Byzantines, but under King Ivan Alexander it again passed to the Bulgarians.

Invested by Lala Shahin, Philippopolis fell under Turkish rule and became the residence of the Beylerbey, the generalissimo of the Turkish troops in Europe (1364). The Turkish domination left its degenerating mark on the town. Its new rulers left few monuments to posterity, but these teware worth while visiting. Among those still existing can be seen the Djumaya mosque in the centre of the town, on the square of the same name; it is quadrilateral and surrounded by high poplars; the Imaret mosque near the Maritza, built by Shah Abedin in 1430, son of Lala Shahin. It was in



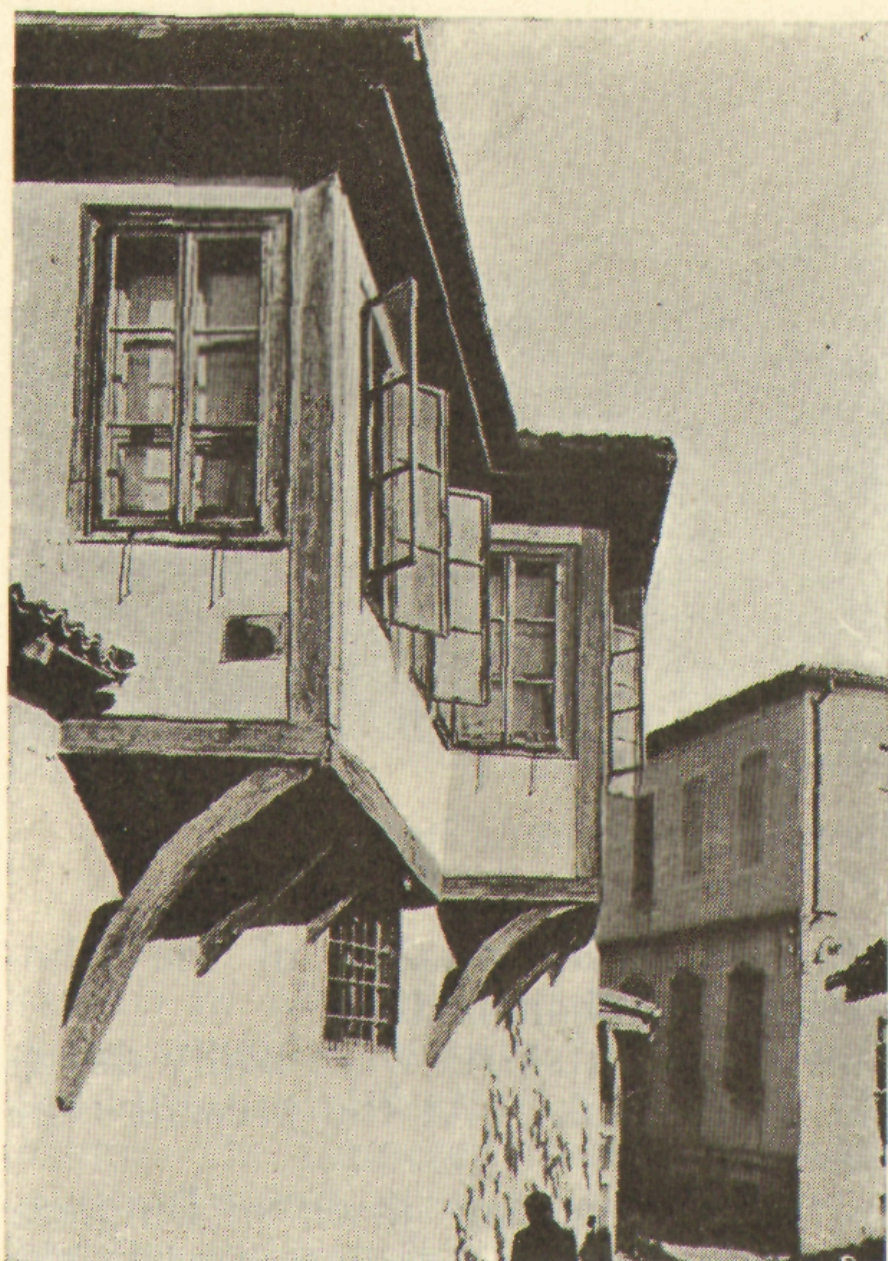
Plovdiv — A Modern Street

this mosque that the Bulgarian notables of the Rhodopes were converted to Mohammedism.

In 1928 the town and outskirts were badly damaged by a terrible earth-quake. At the present time everything has been rebuilt.

Plovdiv is to-day the second town of Bulgaria after Sofia the capital. It has a population of nearly 100,000 inhabitants. Standing on the old highway from Europe to Constantinople and Asia, it has always been a commercial town. A big railway junction, it still keeps its place among the leading commercial centres in Bulgaria.

There are interesting pre-historical, Thracian and Roman and Byzantine antiquities, a numismatic collection etc. in the Archeological Museum. The Town Library is in a building near the Museum. The Ethnographical Museum which is in the Government House, is well worth visiting. Among churches may be mentioned Sveta Marina and Sveta Nedelia, whose carved wood iconostases and thrones are beautiful works of art, and the catholic cathedral of St. Louis, in which is the mausoleum of Princess Maria Louisa, the first wife of King Ferdinand and mother of the present King. During her life she requested that her remains



Plovdiv — part of an ancient house

be laid at rest at the foot of the Altar of St. Louis, King of France, from whose family she was descended. Old houses with overhanging balconies, Turkish baths, and the ruins of the covered market can be seen there.

There are also numerous schools in Plovdiv; the Pedagogical Institute, one of the oldest schools for boys and one for girls, the commercial school, a French boarding school for girls, the French St. Augustin college, which has

a very interesting pedagogical museum with botanical, zoological, commercial, mineralogical, ethnographical and archeological sections, a German school, etc.

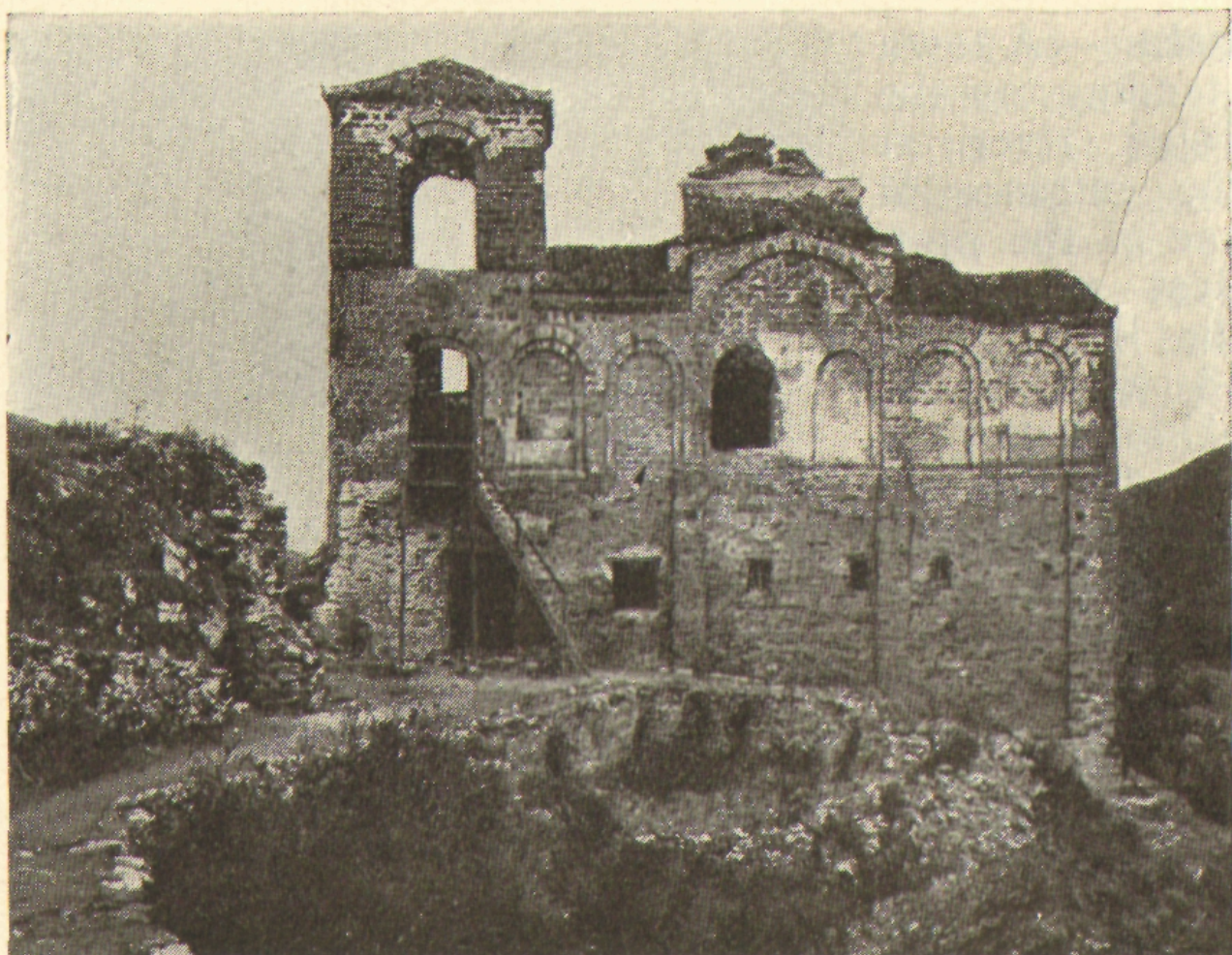
There is a splendid view from the Tepe (the Hills) over the Thracian plain, across which winds like an enormous serpent the Maritza river. On one of the higher hills, the Djendem Tepe (283 m.) is believed to have stood, in the time of the Thracians, one of the largest pagan temples, which was consecrated to the goddess Bendida or to Apollo. On the neighbouring Tepe Bunardjik (234 m.) is a monument to Russian soldiers slain in the battle near Plovdiv during the war for the emancipation of Bulgaria in 1877.

Stanimak. — A town standing on the Tchai river at the entrance of one of the prettiest gorges of the Rhodopes, 18 km. South of Plovdiv, on the Plovdiv — Pashmakli road. It is connected with Plovdiv by a railway. A sort of outpost protecting the gorge (the name originally meant „Protection of the Gorge“) which gives access through the Rhodopes to the Aegean Sea. The ruins of the castle Assenova Krepост, erected by the Bulgarian



Plovdiv — The House where Lamartine lived at the time of his journey in the East

King Assen on the crag dominating the town and guarding the access to the gorge, bear witness to this fact. Near the fortress there is a church of the 13th cent, the best preserved among the ruins owing to its fortified walls. The church has two stories, and there are frescoes to be seen there. It was here that the Knight Renier de Tritt, to whom the Latin Emperor of Constantinople Baudouin de Flandre had entrusted the Duchy of Philippopolis, entrenched himself with a garrison of 125 men in the castle of Estenemak (1205), when he fled from Philippopolis after having burned part of the town following the defeat of Baudouin de Flandre, who was taken prisoner by the Bulgarian King Kaloian at Adrianople. He withstood with his



Stanimaka — The Church of Assenova Krepost

men a 13 months siege, and it was Geoffroy de Vil-lehardouin who relieved him. The town is very old. The fortress above it was said to be impregnable. There are certain churches to be visited in the town with altars and icons carved in wood, embroideries and church utensils of the culture of the 16th to the 19th cent.

10 klm. South-East of Stanimaka is the tourist hut Besovo (1210 m.), which serves as a starting point for excursions. There are also several monas-teries in the neighbourhood of Stanimaka: the Sveta Petka, situated in a very interesting spot, the St. Kirik, above Voden, 8 klm. North-East of Stanimaka, from where one has one of the best views over the Thracian plain, the Sveti Vrach above Kuklen, etc.

Batchkovo Monastery. — Batchkovo village is not quite 12 klm. from Stanimaka through the gorge, along the Tchai river or Tchepe-larska Reka, on a road which winds at the feet of high crags. The Holy Mother of God Monastery, better known as Batchkovo Monas-



Batchkovo Monastery

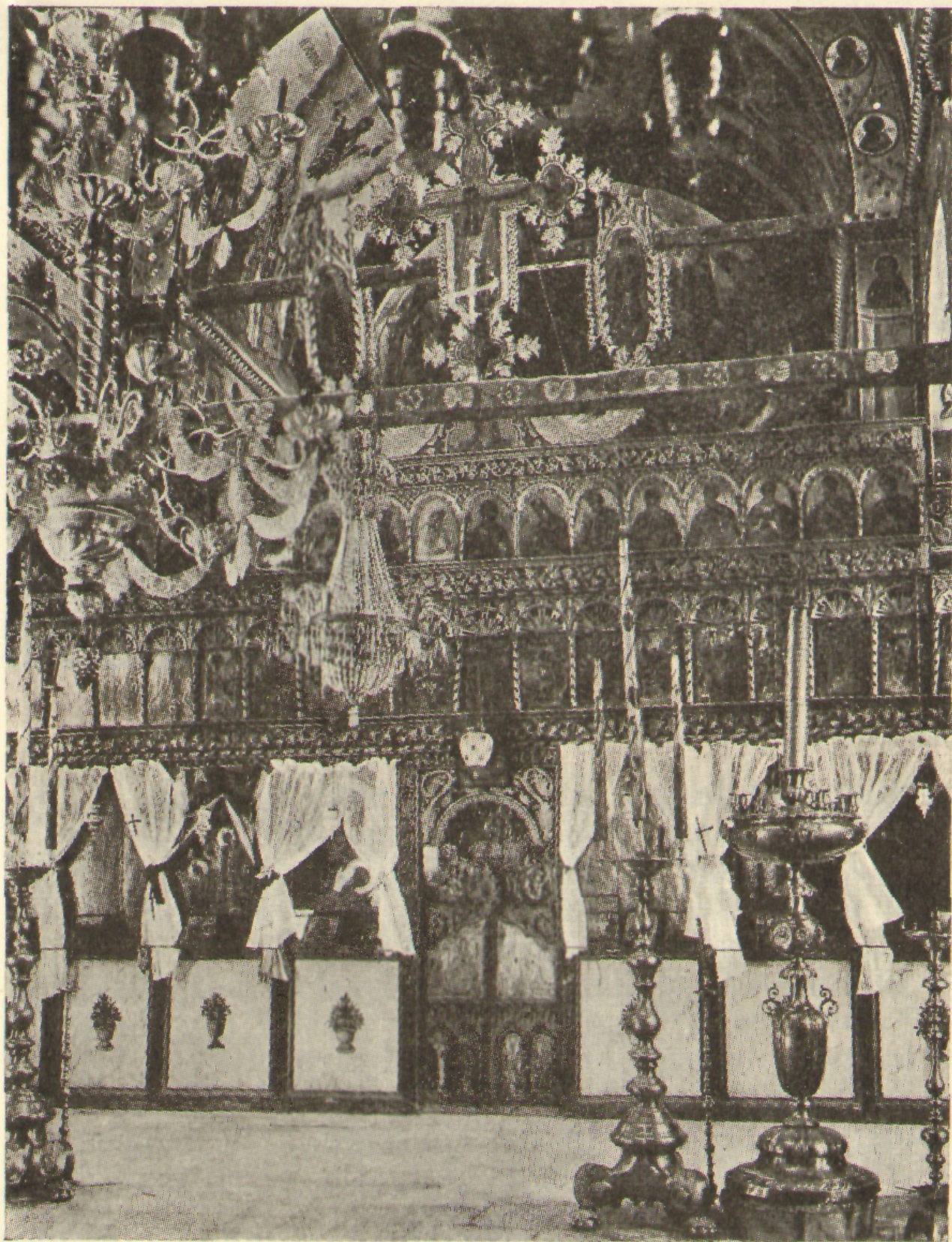
tery, stands near a pretty waterfall amidst gorgeous scenery, by the side of the village. It was built in 1083 by the Georgian, Gregori Pekurian, the conqueror of the Petchenegs. It became Bulgarian in 1189, was occupied by the Crusaders in 1204, was retaken by Kaloian, the Bulgarian Tzar in 1205, restored by the Bulgarian Tzar Ivan Alexander in 1344, captured by the Turks in 1370 and subjected to the jurisdiction of the Holy Synod of the Bulgarian Church in 1894.

There only remains now a two storied church sepulchre from the buildings of the 11-th cent. The lower story is intended for sepulchres, the upper story is properly speaking the church itself. There are to be seen there very interesting frescoes of a mystical and ascetic style; the lines are fine and well finished, especially in the replica of the draperies, such as in the Assumption of the Virgin, of the 12th cent. The form of some of the faces is only produced by colours. Light is used to obtain mystical effects



Batchkovo Monastery — The Church

on the frescoes, as is seen on the fresco of the 12th cent. representing the Virgin. There is a double portrait of the brothers Gregori and Apassi Pakurian of the 12th cent. The portrait of the venerable and very Godfearing protector of architecture, painting and miniature manuscripts, Tzar Ivan Alexander



Batchkovo Monastery — Interior of the Church

(1331—1371) is of very ostentatious baroque of the 14-th cent.

The principal church and the monastery building are of the 17th cent. The church is of the style of those on Mount Athos, (apses to the North and to the South), preserving, however, something of the



Batchkovo Monastery — Portraits of the Donors

traditions of former centuries: side frontons at the base of the dome. The frescoes are of the 17th cent.; they are distinguished by much gaudiness (portrait of the donor George and of his son Constantine, 1643).

The St. Nicholas church has frescoes and portraits by the master painter Zahari Zograff Dospevsky of Samokov (1841); a portrait of the master (by himself), portraits of bishops, officials and rich citizens. There are interesting altars, icons, sacred vessels and embroidery to be seen in the churches. The monastery has the finest collection in Bulgaria of antique brocades, silver vases, icons, fragments and objects in stone and in wood — in bas-relief.

In addition to the works of art already mentioned, there is also an icon of the Virgin with a description in Georgian, of the year 1310, a shroud of the 14th cent., a reliquary of 1637 and cuffs of ecclesiastical robes of the 17th cent.

From the Batchkovo Monastery one can visit the plateau of Tchutchurkeuy, with the grottoes, the Persenk mass, and the Kara-Balkan with the Karlek peak near Tchepelari, etc.



Batchkovo Monastery — Detail of a Fresco

Naretchen Mineral Baths. — These are 28 klm. from Stanimaka and 16 klm. from Batchkovo, amidst pretty forests in the valley of the Tchepelare river. Standing at a height of 620 m. above sea level in one of the loveliest corners of Bulgaria, these baths make a very agreeable spa with their temperate climate and pure air of the pine and fir covered forests.

The water is radio active having 383 Emans to a litre. Another spring 800 m. high near Gerana contains 1,130 Emans to the litre. This little spring contains the most intense radio activity of all the waters in Bulgaria. The water of the baths has a soothing action, relieving the nervous system, rheumatic and neuralgic pains etc. It assists the cure of inflammations, skin diseases etc. Taken as a drink it has a helpful effect on weak stomachs and catarrh of the stomach and intestine.

Tchepelare. — A little mountain town connected with Plovdiv by motor service along the road which goes to Hvoina, which is also a village much visited by holiday makers because of its beautiful surroundings.



A Village in the Rhodopes

Tchepelarc has become quite a popular summer resort thanks to its excellent situation and surrounding scenery. One can go from here via Lilkovo or Shiroka Laka to the tourist hut Persenk which is fitted up to allow visitors to make a short stay there, take meals and sleep. It is the starting point for excursions to the Persenk, Er-Kupria, Madar-Tepe, Pilar-Tepe, and Bela Tcherkova summits. The hut stands at a height of 1760 m., only 320 m. below the summit of Persenk, whose name it takes.

The tourist can go very pleasantly by car or afoot, if he desires better to acquaint himself with the simple and original customs of the people of the Rhodopes, their picturesque costumes, and to enjoy the scenery, to the small towns of Pashmakli, Dara-Dere, Kushu Kavak, Mastanli, Ortakeuy and Kardjali. These are spread in the Arda river basin. The Arda is one of the tributaries of the Maritza river. Very good tobacco grows in this district.

Bela Tcherkova. — (White Churches). Another road leads in the southerly direction from Plovdiv over Komatevo and Markovo on to a broad high plateau, 40 klm.



A house in the hills

from Plovdiv, where there is a popular health resort built around a monastery. Owing to the beautiful scenery, pleasant air, and excellent water which is sweet and agreeable to the taste, this is one of the best resorts in Bulgaria. The vegetation is very varied; there are pine forests and some little villages tucked away in pretty hollows.

Hissar. — (Fortress). A large village 45 klm. North of Plovdiv, on the Southern slopes of the Sredna Gora, 360 m. above the sea. Owing to the number of thermal springs and the variety of their composition and their temperatures, this is perhaps the richest spa in the world.

In an area of 2 klm. diameter there are 20 springs, 5 of which have been tamed since ancient times. The Thracians had already constructed baths here, but it was the Romans especially, great builders and lovers of mineral baths, who made most use of these thermal springs.

In the 2nd cent. Trajan, less owing may be, to the strategic situation of Hissar than to its numerous mineral springs, built a first class fortified camp here,



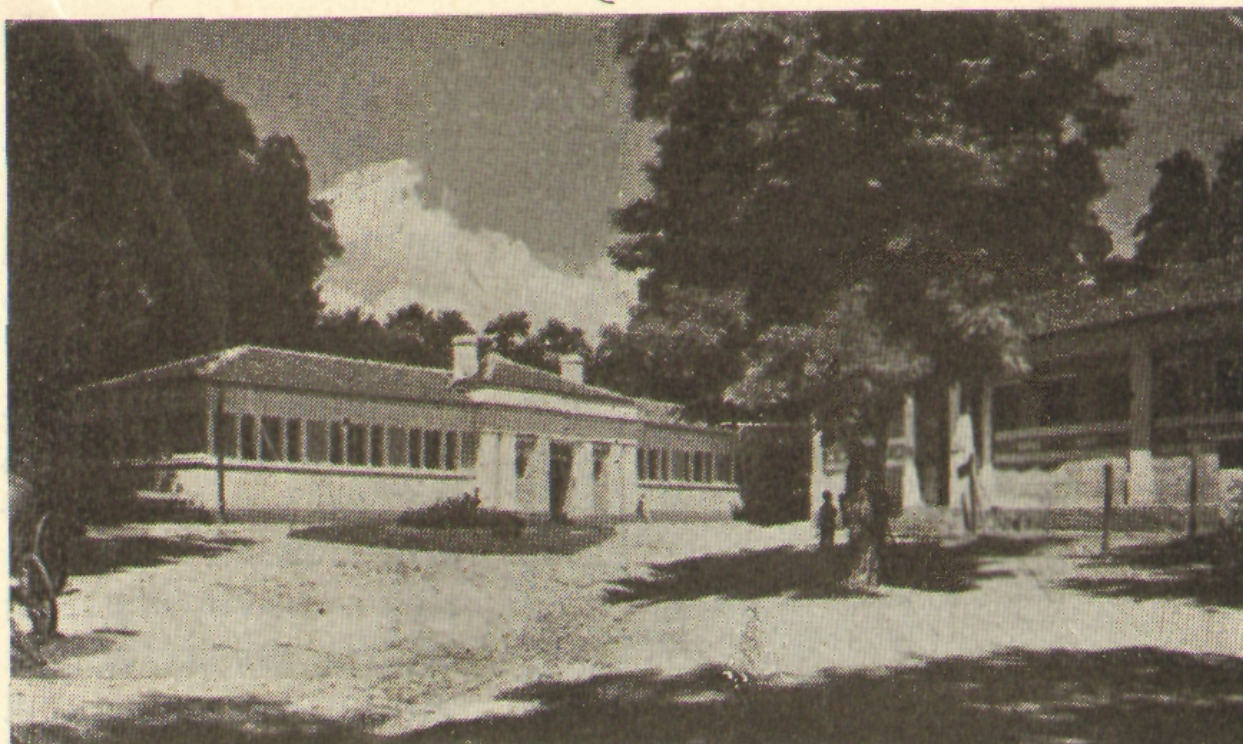
Hissar — The South Gate called Kamilite (Camels)

which was reconstructed by Justinian I. The walls are still preserved in some places, especially the South and West gates.

The baths are:

Momina Bania. — (Maiden's Bath). East of the village outside the fortress, about 1½ klm. away, near a stream in which for a distance of over a kilometre there are a number of hot springs. In 1927, whilst repairing the bottom of the basin, the Roman foundations as well as a wall bearing on the tiles an inscription — „Maximilian Emperor — Maximilian Emperor at Augustus Galerius Constantine“ were unearthed. From this inscription it would appear that the Roman baths were constructed here between 300 and 311 A. D.

There is a pretty park in front of the baths and some well built villas behind. The temperature of the water is 47° C. with a radio activity of 114 10—10 Curies. By its chemical composition it belongs to the oligometallic waters with a predominance of bicarbonate of soda (0.034), bicarbonate of lime (0.0148), bicarbonate of magnesia (0.011) and bicarbonate of iron (0.0006). The water has a sedative action, soothing nervous excitement and neuralgic pains. It acts favou-



Hissar — The Havuse and Indjes Baths

rably against rheumatism, old wounds and dislocations, relieves neurosis, neurasthenia, chorea, and aids the cure of certain women's diseases (metritis, salpyngitis, menstruation troubles etc.)

Kuptchez. — To the West at the exit of the fortress. The temperature is 39° C. with a radio activity of 46^{10-10} Curies. It cures catarrh of the throat and bronchial catarrh, rheumatism and chronic skin diseases.

Havuse. — This bath is almost in the centre of the village, in a beautiful park where the visitors come to breathe the cool evening air. The temperature of the water is 48° C. It is specially recommended for weak and scrofulous people, sufferers from neurasthenia, hysteria, catarrh of the digestive and respiratory organs.

Tchuludja. — In the same building as the Havuse bath, but with a different basin. The temperature is 40° C. It is recommended very specially for obstinate skin diseases.

Indjez. — By the side of Havuse in the park. Temperature 41° C. It helps people with weak nerves, and is recommended for disorders of the urinary canal.

There is a regular motor car service between Hissar and Plovdiv and the town of Karlovo which is 16 klm. North East. There are hotels, restaurants



Karlovo — The Market and the Clock-Tower

and boarding houses in the village, where suitable accommodation can be found. Hissar will soon be joined up with Plovdiv and Karlovo by railway. The charming villas, hotels, restaurants and other amenities have given Hissar an attractive modern appearance.

Karlovo. — A very interesting little town 60 klm. from Plovdiv, at the entrance to the Trajan pass, nestling under the Balkans. It will soon be connected by railway with Plovdiv. Bathed in sun and surrounded by meadows, vineyards,

rose gardens and fields, and studded with walnut and chestnut trees it draws many visitors during the summer. The continuation of the railway will form the transbalkan line, Danube—Karlovo—Plovdiv, and will at the same time connect up with the sub Balkan line Sofia—Karlovo—Bourgas. There is a regular motor car service between Karlovo and Plovdiv. Interesting excursions can be made into the Balkans from Karlovo. 2 klm. from the town the Sutchurum water fall rushes down from a height of 8 m.

Karlovo has become one of the most important centres for the production of Attar of Roses. In the town one can visit the Vassil Lewsky monument, the Kurshum Djamia mosque, the town clock tower, the old market, the Arapovski bridge and typical Bulgarian houses.

Karlovo Mineral Baths. —

These are a few kilometres to the South, near the Plovdiv—Karlovo road, in the Bania commune, standing on the Southern slopes of the Sredna Gora mountains which protect them from bad weather. The temperature of the water is 45.6° C. There are several thermal springs near the baths. The Karlovo water has a curative effect on the following ailments: inflammation of the kidneys, anaemia, chronic bronchitis, stomach troubles, neurallgia, chronic inflammations of the nose and throat, haemorrhoids, pleurisy, rheumatism etc.

The baths stand in a large park. In the village 3 klm. away are some well-conducted hotels.

The Tzar has just built a country-seat in Bulgarian style near the baths, and furnished accordingly.

Krasnovo Mineral Baths. — On the Southern slope of the Sredna Gora mountain, 32 klm. from Plovdiv, going Northwards. The village is 3 klm. East of the baths. A good motor car service runs between Plovdiv and Krasnovo along an excellent road.

The water has a temperature of 53° C. and is recommended for chronic rheumatism, rickets, ailments of the female sexual organs and certain skin diseases. The water also acts favourably on weak stomachs, catarrh of the stomach, the urinary organs, liver pains etc.



Karlovo — the old market-place



A street in Karlovo

Sadovo. — The third railway station after Plovdiv. In the village there are a model farm and an agricultural school with experimental station.

From here as far as the frontier the railway follows the Maritza river and passes through interesting scenery.

Haskovo. — Reached by a branch line from Rakovsky station which continues as far as Mastanli. Haskovo is situated in a detour of the Rhodopes and is a centre of the tobacco industry. It is connected to Plovdiv and Rakovsky by an excellent highway. Not far from the road going towards Plovdiv, lies the historical village Klokotnitza, where there took place in the year 1230 the great battle between the Bulgarian Tzar Assen II and Theodore Comnenus of Epirus. After the victory the Tzar was able to extend his rule over Macedonia, Albania as far as the Adriatic Sea (Dratch) and in the South as far as the Aegean Sea (Salonika). There is a building near Klokotnitza by the spring of the Nymphs which dates from before Christ.

A motor or railway trip in the Rhodopes will be interesting as far as Kardjali, Mastanli, Dara-Dere



A ancient house in Karlovo

where the best Oriental tobacco grows, and where the local inhabitants still preserve their peculiar costumes and traditions. These places are not far from Haskovo and are easily reached.

Haskovo Mineral Baths. — 19½ klm. from the town near Bre-stovo village, at the foot of a mountain on which an oak forest grows. There is much water coming from many springs, from which the six basins of the baths are fed. Two of these are used alternately for cooling the water, whose temperature is from 58 to 60° C. and which is cooled down to 42 and 36° C. The water of these springs can be classed amongst the bicarbonate-chloride waters, with a predominance of bicarbonate of Lime (0.277), bicarbonate of soda (0.166), chloride of soda (0.172) and traces of arsenic. The water has a soothing effect on rheumatic, muscular and neuralgic pains; relieves neurasthenia, hysteria and chorea. It also has a useful action on certain skin diseases, vesicular irruptions. dyspepsia, catarrh of the stomach, intestines and kidneys, diabetes, anaemia and goitre. The presence of magnesium and arsenic helps to stimulate the general weak-



Typical courtyard — Karlovo

ness of the organism and the functioning of the endocrane glands.

Svilengrade. — (Silktown). The frontier town opposite to Adrianople, where the silk worm is cultivated. It is reached from Rakovsky by the railway which follows the Maritza river, passes through Zlaten Dol and then Harmanli, a district where silk worms are also cultivated.

In Svilengrade there is a bridge over the Maritza river between the station and the town. In the cemetery there are tombs bearing on their crosses very interesting inscriptions—remains of peculiar traditions. In the neighbourhood, on the road to Constantinople, there are several historical places. There has lately been discovered near Mesek in the tumulus Mal Tepe (The Lucky Hill) a tomb of Mycenaean type, and other antiquities from the 4-th cent. B. C. These are very interesting from the point of view of the history of the people who lived in the Balkans, at that epoch.



A house with pictures on the walls. Karlovo

PLOVDIV—BOURGAS—BLACK SEA

Tchirpan. — The railway line to Bourgas on the Black Sea branches off from Plovdiv. It skirts the town in a wide arc, crosses the Maritza river and goes on to the sea through the fertile Thracian plain. Tchirpan is about 60 klm. from Plovdiv on a plain South of the railway line. The Roman road Philippopolis — Adrianople passed South of Tchirpan. In the neighbourhood are the ruins of Pizus, a town which was built in 202 by Septimius Severus; it is mentioned in history under the name of Blisimos from the 11-th to the 13-th cent., and was called by the Turks Hissar-Kassaba (The Fortified Town).

Tchirpan is noted for its large autumn Fair. It has nowadays lost much of its importance as a commercial centre, but formerly it was one of the principal ones in Bulgaria. Its wines are well known. The mineral spring of Meritchleki, known for the curative action of its water, is about 17 klm. south of the town. The water in this spring disappeared after the earthquake of 1928, but efforts are being made to trace it.

Stara-Zagora. — A town 46 klm. from Tchirpan on the railway line in a very fertile region. Owing to its geographical situation at the foot of the Shipka pass it played a very important part as an outpost in the time of the Romans and especially during the Byzantine domination. There is a branch line from here which passes through the Balkans to Roustchuk — a town on the Danube.

It was known for a time under the Romans as Augusta Trajana. Then it again took its old name Berohe and under the Turkish rule it was called Eski Zaara or Zagora — in Bulgarian Stara Zagora. The town stood on an ancient Roman military road Plovdiv — Kabile — Anhialo, which was crossed here by the road from Andrianople to Nicopolis ad Istrum (Near Tirnovo). Owing to its geographical position and fertility of its soil, it was during the course of centuries the first town in Thrace after Philippopolis. In 1877 during the Russo-Turkish war, the town was completely destroyed by the Turks, and those inhabitants who were not able to escape were massacred, or led away into captivity.

In order to find traces of the old Berohe, excavations at least 6-7 m. deep must be made. Ruins of the walls can still be seen here and there. The present town is worth visiting. It has straight streets, charming gardens and a park on a hill west of the town, with the Aiasmo. Interesting sights in the town are: the Museum, the sarcophagus monument in the Akardja quarter, the mausoleum where rest the remains of the inhabitants massacred in 1877-78, and the monument of liberation in the town garden.

Stara-Zagora Mineral Baths. — The baths are 14 klm. North-East of the town, on the Southern slope of the Sredna Gora, in a very picturesque valley of the Sutliika river. The temperature of the water is 46.5° C., and has a favourable action on the nutritive changes of the body, the urinary and genital organs, rheumatism, chronic skin diseases etc.

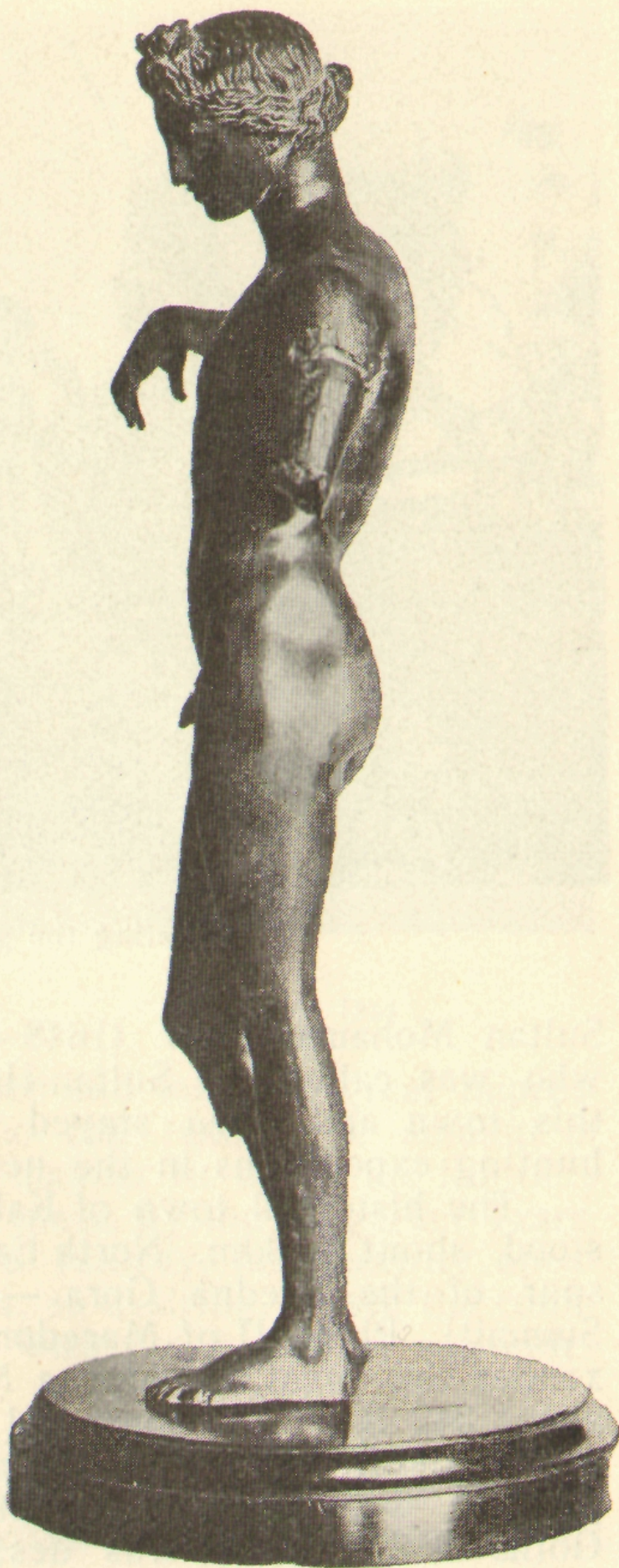
All comforts necessary for spending a restful holiday and for taking the baths are obtainable here. There are interesting walks in the neighbourhood.

Yambol. — A town 78 klm. from Stara-Zagora on the railway line, near a bend of the Tundja river. The situation is interesting, as over the town the Great Bakardjik rises to a height of 150 m., and in the South-East the Little Bakardjik.

The old Acropolis stood at the bend of the river on the left bank where the ruins of Suflu Djamia, a stone mosque, decorated inside with numerous arabesques, can still be seen. There are here strong foundation walls of hewn stone.

The covered bazaar, Besisten, is almost the only one in the country still fully preserved since the liberation of Bulgaria. It is typical of ancient Turkish building. Excavations in the town often reveal ancient foundations of hewn stone.

Yambol appears in history in the 11th to 14th cent. under the name of Diampolis. It was one of the best fortified places on the highway through the Hemus pass leading from Adrianople to the Danube and Wallachia. It is often mentioned among towns of the Bulgarian Byzantine frontier in the 14th cent.



A Bronze Statuette of Apollo
(National Museum — Sofia)



Gathering the grapes

Sultan Mohammed IV (1648—1687) a great hunter, who was called the Sultan-Hunter Mohammed, liked this town and often stayed there, organising large hunting expeditions in the neighbourhood.

The historical town of Kabile is believed to have stood about 10 klm. North East of Yambol, on the spur of the Sredna Gora — Taoushan Tepe (Hare Summit). Philip II of Macedonia, the father of Alexander the Great, founded a Macedonian colony here about 342 B. C. The town did not lose its importance during the Roman domination and played an important part. It was probably during the invasion of the Goths in 378 that it was destroyed. The ruins of a large fortress and numerous tumuli are still visible on the summit of Taoushan Tepe. Sultan Murad I stayed at Tchaoushanli in 1388, where he learned of the victory of his troops against Tzar Shisman, who was then obliged to acknowledge the suzerainty of the Sultan.

South of Yambol is the famous Erkessia trench leading from the Black Sea, South of Bourgas to the Maritza river, constructed during the 8th—9th cent. along the Bulgarian Byzantine frontier by the Bulgarian Tzars. In many places this trench, which was 5 paces wide and five paces deep, is still intact. Under the Bulgarian Kings it served as a defence of the frontier.

There was a wooden stockade along the trench with passages through it in definite places only. This historical trench

is very interesting to see and makes a great impression on the visitor who can realise the amount of labour involved and the manner in which the frontiers were defended, in those times, by the Bulgarian Tzars.

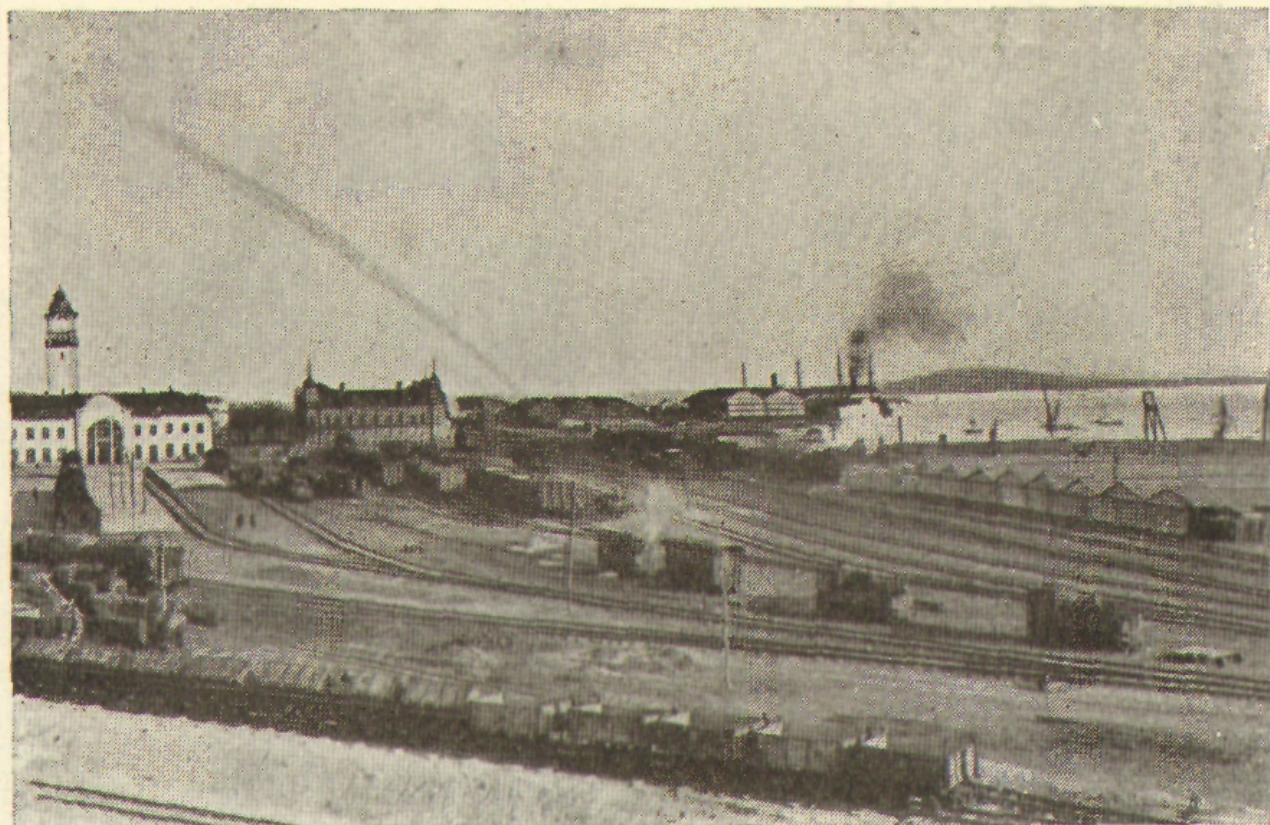
The Yambol—Elhovo railway, just recently opened, permits the traveller, so desiring, to see the country South of Yambol, with its historical souvenirs and interesting scenery.

Sliven. — The sub-Balkan railway line, Zimnitza—Sliven, branches off 15 klm. from Yambol, joining at Dabovo the Stara-Zagora—Rüstchuk line and continuing to Kazanlik.

Sliven lies almost under the large blue rocks in one of the Balkan gorges. It is the original and oldest centre of the textile industry in Bulgaria, and at the same time a centre of wine distilleries. In the neighbourhood there are interesting places for excursions



A gypsy lass

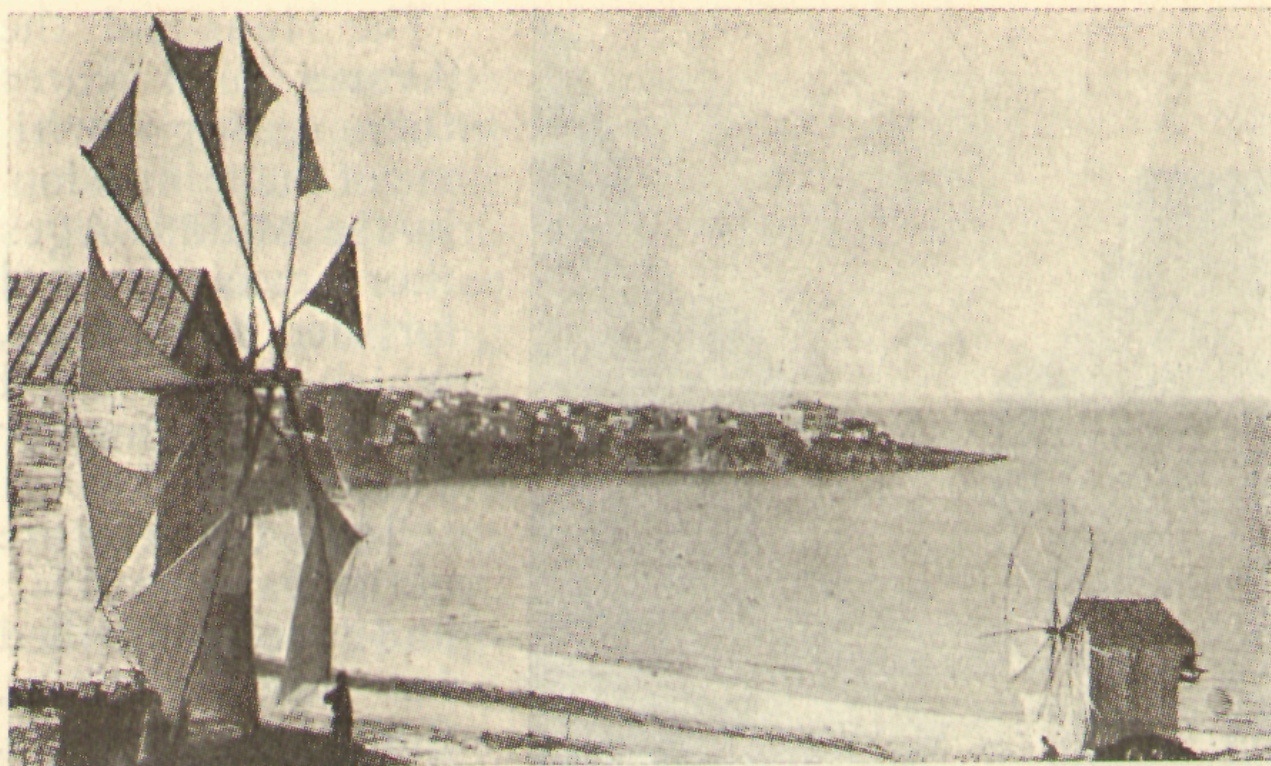


Bourgas — The Port

and historical spots where ruins of old fortresses can be seen. Sliven has been known by that name since 1153. Under the Turkish rule it was known as the centre for the manufacture of rough cloth and muskets. The carpet industry and the shevitzi (special Bulgarian hand embroidery on cloth) also flourish here.

Sliven Mineral Baths. — These are 12 klm. South-East in the pretty valley of the Tundja river. They stand in a fine park. The temperature of the water is 41° C., and has curative effects on the following ailments: chronic nasal catarrh, catarrh of the throat and bronchial tubes, stomach and intestinal disorders, liver complaint, rheumatism, inflammations of the muscles, neuralgia etc. The baths are well arranged; good hotels and restaurants and pleasant surroundings make them very popular.

Karnobat. — A small somewhat old town on the right hand side of the railway in the Bourgas direction. In the neighbourhood are seen the ruins of an ancient fortress — Hissar Kale, one and a half klm. South of the town. The town is known as the best wool market in Bulgaria, as well as for the large fair, which was formerly one of the most famous, lasting a whole week.



Sozopol

Aitos. — A small town standing at the entrance of a pass through the Balkans, connecting Southern Bulgaria with Northern Bulgaria and through which the Aitos-Provadia road leads. The town stands under Hissar Bair, where a large fortress which guarded the pass existed in the 14 th cent. Its ruins can still be seen.

Bourgas. — The town is situated on the coast in the gulf of the same name, which is the largest on the Western part of the Black Sea coast — 12 klm. wide at the entrance and running 15 klm. inland. The harbour, which is the second in Bulgaria and the first, from the point of view of traffic, is adjacent to the town. There is a public garden and a sea bathing beach to the north of the harbour. The town is of recent date, from the beginning of the 19 th cent., and was probably built around a fortified tower (Pirgos) — 14 th. cent

It is an active business town, developing rapidly, and is already one of the leading Bulgarian cities.

Bourgas Mineral Baths. — Called Ladjite. 16 klm. North-West of Bourgas near Ladjene village. These baths have their history, and were known under the Romans as Aquae Calidae. They are spoken of since the time of the Goths.



A street in Anhialo

The Huns and the Avars took cures there during the time of their invasion. In the Middle Ages there was a small fortified town here, which was called Megali Therme or Thermopolis.

The temperature of the water is 41°C . and is recommended for rheumatism, gout, skin diseases, paralysis, diseases of the urinary and genital organs etc. They have been known for their curative properties since ancient times.

Sozopol. — A town opposite to Bourgas at the entrance of the gulf, on a peninsula connected to

the shore behind which Strandja Planina ends. Standing almost at the point of the peninsula it can be seen from East and West and its situation is very picturesque. There is a school of fishery, a beautiful building visible at a great distance, on a little island in the West, which is now linked up with Sozopol by a dike.

Sozopol is to day mainly a fishing town, fish being very plentiful in the neighbourhood. The history of the town goes back a long way. It is the ancient Apollonia on the Pontus, established about 610 B. C. by the Hellenes, who had come from Miletos, led here it is said, by the famous Greek philosopher Anaximandros. In olden times the town had two large harbours. It stood upon an island then, the present isthmus being formed later on.

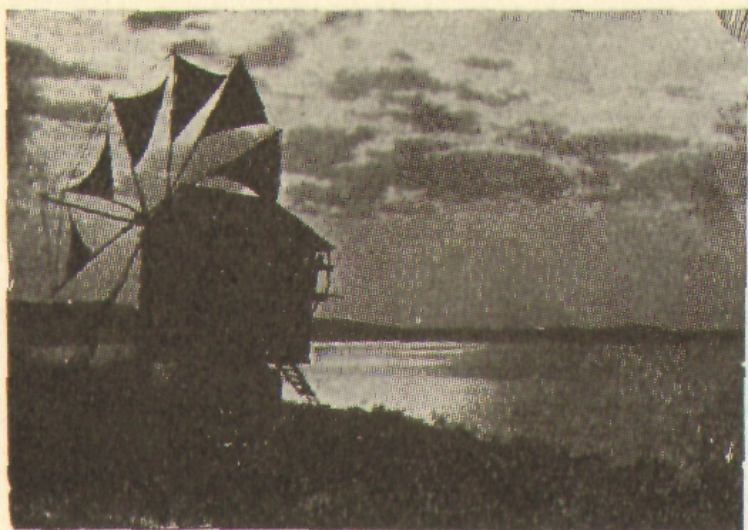
In olden times the temple of Apollo in which stood a giant metal statue of Apollo — 30 Roman aunes high and weighing 500 talents — was the pride of Magna Apollonia. It was the work of the sculptor Kalamina (4 th cent. B. C.). After the capture of the town (72 B. C.) by the Romans, who sacked it because of the stubborn resistance, the statue was moved to the Capitol in Rome. The name of Sozopol was first heard of in 431 and was no doubt given to the town after conversion of the inhabitants to Christianity.



Messemyria's Shore

In the Middle Ages it was an important commercial town both under the Byzantine and the Bulgarian rule. Even under the Turks it retained its importance for a considerable time, but gradually lost its commercial value.

A visit to the town now is well worth while as the streets and houses, which have retained the special character of a sea town, are almost intact. There are the remains of ancient walls to be seen. From the town there is a splendid view over the gulf with the lighthouse on Anhialo, Messemyria, in the foreground, and the Balkans as a background. There are some little rocky islands in front of the town. such as, in the North, the island of St. John, on which the light house stands and where the ruins of an old fortress can be seen, in the East, St. Peter, and in the West St. Kirik where during the Byzantine times the Monastery of



A Wind Mill on the Black Sea Coast

St. Kirik and Julita stood, which was subject to the Patriarch of Constantinople. All these little islands shelter the town from the waves of the „inhospitable Pontus“ as the ancients used to say.

Vassiliko. — This is a town about three

hours by boat East of Sozopol lying on a natural bay. The old town is almost deserted and on the height to the right of the bay there is a small quite new town, built 3—4 years ago for the refugees from Thrace. A harbour has been built there which permits the exploitation of century old oak forests which are found about 25 klm. South of the town on the Stranja Planina.

Ahtopol. — A little port the town of which, just like Sozopol and Messemvria, was an ancient Hellenic city. It is about an hour by boat from Vassiliko in a natural bay on the coast sheltered from the sea by the large rocks that rise in front. It is now inhabited by refugees from Thrace; a hardworking people who have erected little white and gray houses amidst the ruins of the ancient town and for the most part on the huge walls which used to surround it in former days. There are the ruins of two churches there, interesting to see; especially one standing on the point near the fortress wall which has some epistyles and fragments of paintings and mosaics. According to tradition, Ahtopol at one time was famous for the beauty of its women.

All that part of the coast from Bourgas to Ahtopol, the last Bulgarian town on the Black Sea towards the Bosphorus, is very interesting. The towns of Vassiliko and Ahtopol are protected from the East, South and West winds by mountains and have an excellent autumn season, like that of the Côte d'Azur, up to the end of Decembr.

Anhialo. — This town, about an hour North of Bourgas by narrow gauge railway or by motor car, is situa-

ted almost in the middle of a lagoon where salt marshes spread out. The town dates from 784, when the Empress Irene transferred the former city which lay a little to the South, to this site. The old city because of its importance was called Civitas Magna by the Romans; it was a colony of Apollonia (Sozopol). Five great Roman military roads led out from this town: one along the coast towards the mouth of the Danube, the second over the Hemus (the Balkans) to Marcianopolis

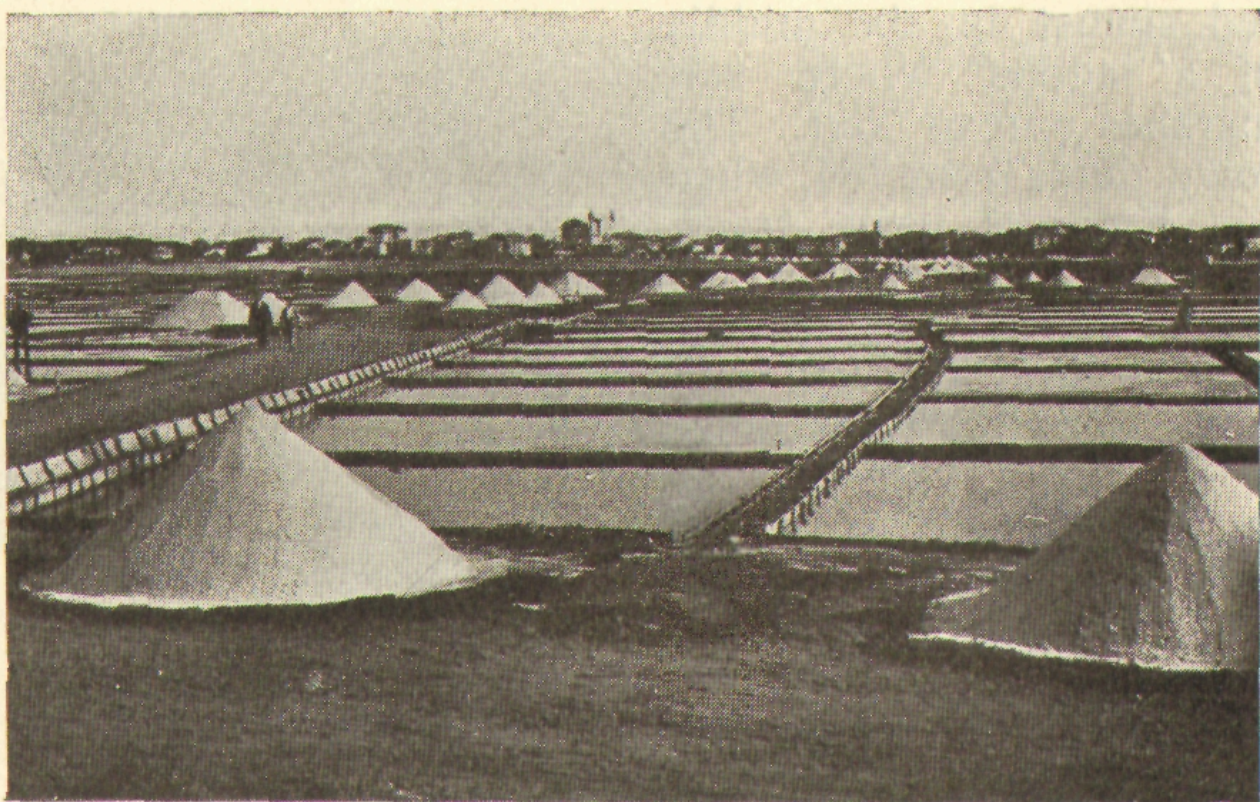
and Dorostorum (Silistra) the third over the Aquae Calidae to Kabile, Berohe (Stara-Zagora) and Philippopolis, the fourth over Deultum to Adrianople and the last along the coast southwards to Byzantium. Naturally this junction of important roads caused Anhialo to suffer the horrors of invasions time after time. But in spite of this it was a place of business of first importance during the Middle Ages as well as ancient times and up to modern days. It was here and in Messemvria that members of the Imperial Byzantine family of the Cantacuzens Settled down after the town had been taken by the Turks; Michael had a palace here.

There are not many ruins in the present town, but a visit is worth while, as the position of the town amidst the salt marshes, a few old buildings and the comparatively modern churches make it interesting.

The principal occupation of the inhabitants is cultivation of the grape and production of salt. Anhialo wines have a good name. There is no trace, however, of the old commercial importance. The lie of the land does not lend itself to a port for modern purposes. The town will shortly be connected with Bourgas by a normal gauge railway.



Evening on Bourgas Coast



Salt Marshes near Anhialo

Messemyria. — A town which stands 12 klm. North-West of Anhialo, united by a narrow isthmus to the main land. It seems to be contemplating the great beach with its bordering sand dunes, which are the finest on the whole of the Black Sea.

Protected from winds by the Balkans and enjoying a wonderful sunny climate, Messemyria attracts those who like quietness and sun and sea baths. During the summer there is a motor car service to Bourgas. The ships of the Bulgarian Navigation Company put in here twice a week on their Black Sea coastal trips. There is also during the summer a regular service between Varna and Bourgas and intermediate ports.

The town Messemyria is one of the oldest in the Balkan Peninsula. Its history is lost in the dim past for it has been in existence for over 2.500 years. Formerly a Thracian settlement, the town under the name of Messemyria is said to have been founded by the Doric Megarians, the first inhabitants of the Bosphorus colonies. According to Herodotus who personally visited the town, it was the only Doric town on this coast. A business town, it was for a certain time very rich. It was much improved under the Byzantine domination and often visited by the Em-

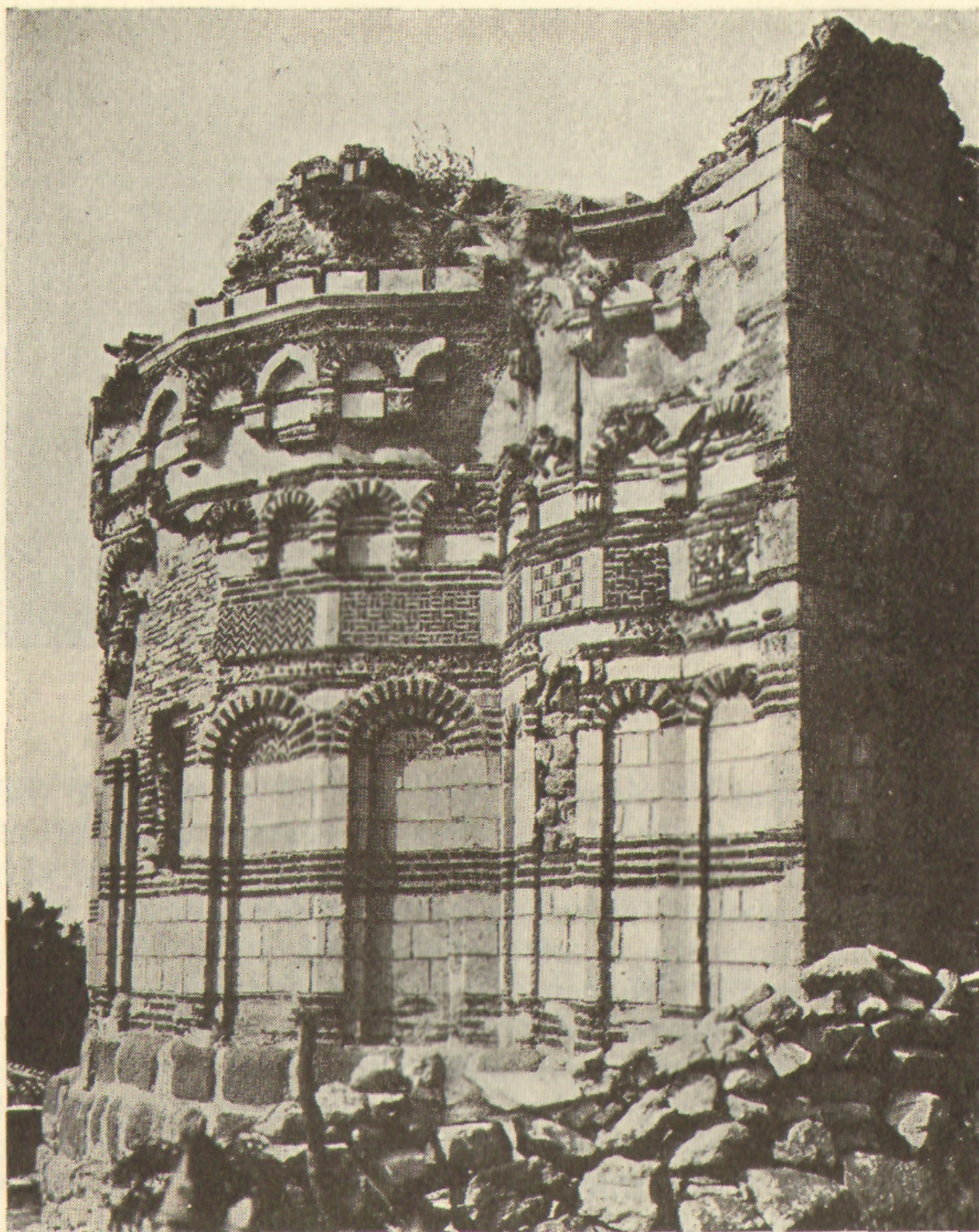


Messemvria — General View

perors, whom it pleased very much. It was at the same time a town of churches, a certain number of which still exist and contain important works of art.

The exposed situation of the town caused it to be many times the theatre of fierce fighting and often, right up to the 9th cent., it was plundered and destroyed. The monuments which still exist prove a great development, especially in regard to architecture and icons. Nowhere else in the limits of Bulgaria of the past and of the present, and in general nowhere where the Byzantine art flourished, does one meet such a variety in the form of the churches and such a richness in architectural ornamentation of the semi-basilican church, with or without domes.

A visit is worth while to: the gate of the city wall near the quay; the ruins of the ancient episcopal basilica (9th cent.), with one apse and three naves separated by arcades, narthex and facade in many stories; the basilica on the sea (6th cent.) whose foundations still exist with three naves, three apses in addition to those bearing the domes and with apses North and South; the semi-basilica St. John of the Sea with clearly shown ends of arms of the Greek



Southern part of the Church of St. Johu at Messemvria (14th cent).

cross, with frontons on four sides and high cylindrical domes (14th cent.), frescoes and a portrait of the donor of very fine design; St. Theodor and St. Petka, little churches with one apses and one nave, with full arcades (16th cent.); the new Bishop's church (11th cent.), a church with three apses, three naves separated by pillars and a colonade, the central nave, higher than the lateral naves, has



The Holy Virgin — Icon given to one of the Churches at
Messemvria by an uncle of King Ivan Alexander 1343.
(National Museum Sofia)

frontons on the South-Eastern and Eastern sides, icons of the 17th cent.; the church of St. Archangel has one nave, three apses, one dome on the church itself and another over the narthex (14th cent.). On the exterior wall there are incrustations (alternating with rows of stones and bricks, full arcades, niches, glazed ceramic ornamentations); the church of the Panto-

crator, the omnipotent God, with three apses, three naves, separated by pillars and two columns, two domes above the central nave. The exterior decorations are very rich — full arcades, incrustations, glazed ceramic ornamentations (14th cent.); the church of St. John with three apses, with spaces under the cupolas, three naves, a narthex, three large and four small cupolas. The exterior is very rich with particularly varied incrustation, tiles, glazed ceramic ornamentations, full arches (14th cent.).

SOFIA—SREDNA GORA—SOUTHERN SLOPES OF THE BALKANS—VALLEY OF ROSES—KAZANLIK

Zlatitza Valley. — This lies between the Sredna Gora and the Stara Planina, and is reached from Sofia by a road leading North East across the Iskar river near the village of Vrajdebna, beyond Sarantzi, to the Galabetz height whence the descent is made to the valley. With the Topolnitza river running through it and the many streams winding among the smiling fields and meadows, the valley is indeed picturesque.

The Christian princes in 1443, under the Polish King Vladislav III, took this road as they were unable to descend via Ihtiman into the plain of Thrace. In order to get round the Turkish army they tried to reach T.-Pazardjik by passing through the Zlatitza valley — following the bed of the Topolnitza river, or to Plovdiv by passing via Koprivshtitza and Streltsha which was a fortified place at that time. They certainly reached Zlatitza village at the end of the valley.

Zlatitza is today a large village where one sees in the courtyards of the houses trees centuries old. North of the village there is a nursery plantation for trees — a veritable park.

Pirdop. — A town three klm. East of Zlatitza. It was formerly known for its trade in rough cloth and lace throughout the whole of the Balkan peninsula; today it is a centre of the carpet industry.

Koprivshtitza. — A town situated in the Sredna Gora mountains on the bank of the Topolnitza river, known as the Topo ka higher up. 105 klm. from Sofia and 85 klm.



Peasant girl in the valley of Roses



Gathering the Roses

from Plovdiv. It is reached from Pirdop by the road running through the mountains, which, splitting in two, leads straight to Klissura in one direction, and in the other follows the Topolka river through the picturesque gorge. There is a motor car service between Sofia and Plovdiv and this town. Koprivshtitza was undoubtedly founded during the Turkish rule. Already in the beginning of the 19-th cent. national feeling was awakened here. The town played an important part in the Bulgarian revival.

Under Turkish rule Koprivshtitza was noted for its handicraftsmen, numbers of whom went to work in the towns of the Ottoman Empire, even as far as Egypt. At the present day as in most of the sub-Balkan towns the population has greatly decreased. But thanks to its excellent geographical position and very healthy climate it has become a resort for open air cures. Very interesting excursions can be made in the

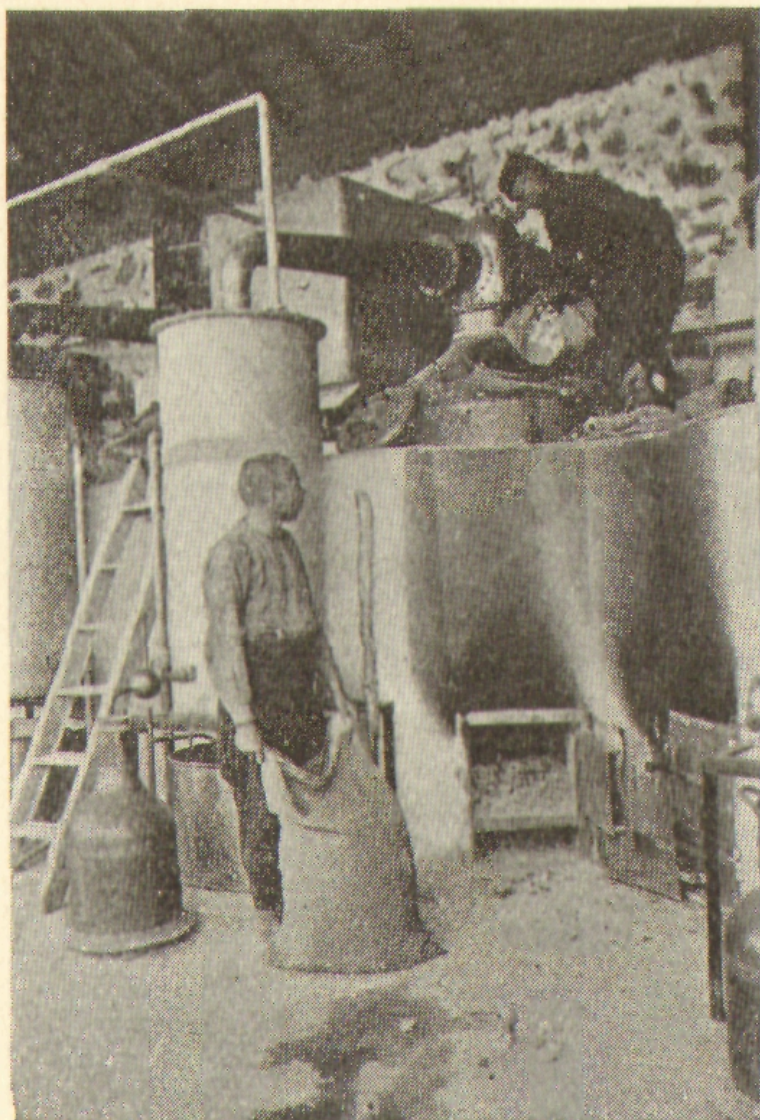


At work in the Rose Valley

neighbourhood, and those keen on the style of Bulgarian architecture of the pre-liberation period will find houses here which at one time belonged to rich families. Both the construction and decoration on wood made according to Bulgarian designs are still well preserved.

Klissura. — The village stands at the exit of the Klissura (Koznitza) pass which a little beyond Koprivshtitza goes between the Stara Planina and the Sredna Gora mountains. During the insurrection in April 1876 it was burned and completely wiped out, but since then was rebuilt. The cultivation of roses, which extends as far as Kazanlik, begins here. Further on, going through the little Sopot valley, we come to a plain like a corridor between the Sredna Gora and the Balkans. On this side the Balkans rise sharply with their majestic peaks outlined in the sky, and the town of Karlovo nestles in its slopes near the river Strema, the Syrmus of Pliny.

Between Sopot, the native town of Ivan Vasoff, the national writer, and Karlovo, the Turkish town



An Attar of Roses distille y

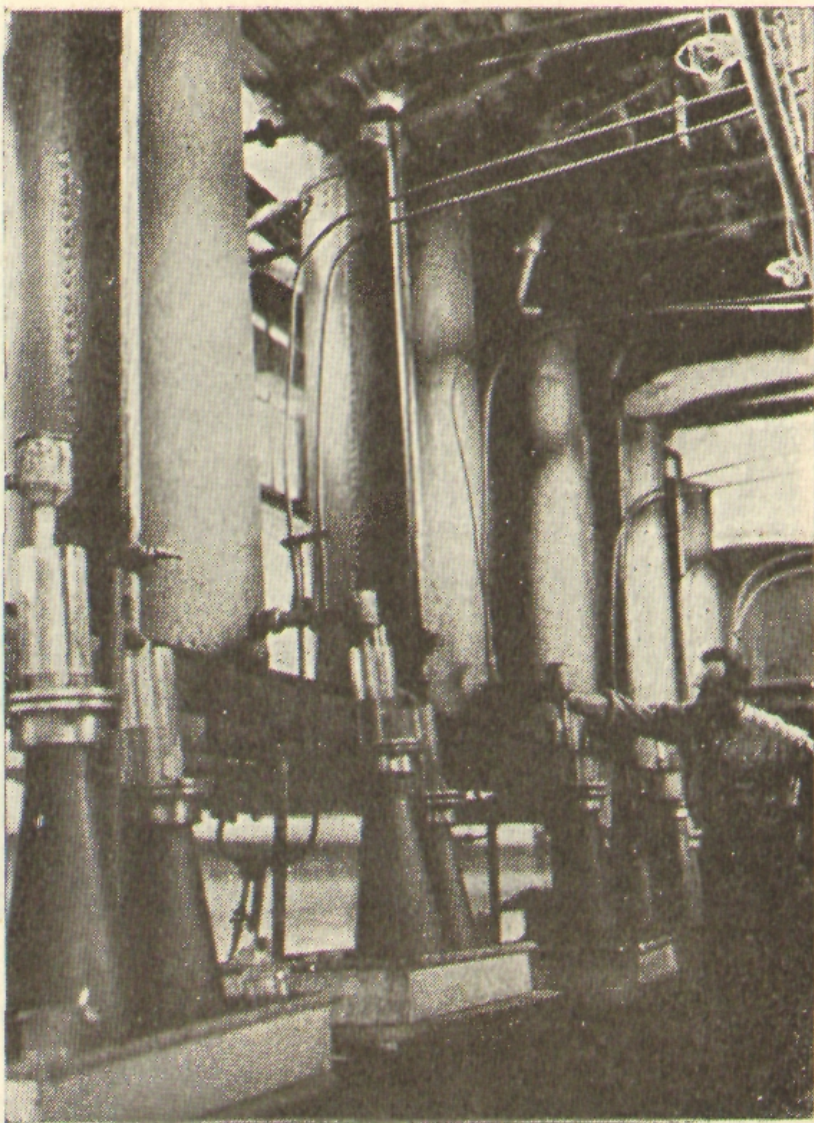
Usun Shehir (The Long Town) is believed to have been situated. It must have been built on the site of the Bulgarian fortress Kopsis (14th cent.) which later gave the Turkish name Giopsa to the whole valley and the Strema itself. Ruins of the fortress can still be seen.

Karlovo. — At the time of the Turkish invasion there existed a place called Sushitza, east of the present town of Karlovo, which the invaders destroyed. The inhabitants thereupon migrated to the right bank of the

Strema river, near an old Christian monastery, keeping the name Sushitza for the new village, which the Turks called Shahin Kara Essi. Towards the end of the 15-th cent. the land around Sushitza, on which many Turks had established themselves, was given by the Sultan to the high official Karla Ali Bey. The latter built the Kurshum Djamia (The Lead Mosque), and the public baths, which are still standing. After his death he left the revenue from his property for the upkeep of the Kurshum Djamia. Towards the 17-th cent. the locality acquired great importance and became the Capital of the Giopsha region — taking the name Karlovo in memory of its founder and benefactor (see Karlovo).

Kalofer. — A town North-East of Karlovo by the Tundja river on the Southern slopes of the Balkans, under the Yumruk Tchal (2375 m.), the highest peak of the Stara Planina. According to one of many existing legends, it seems that this town was founded in a rather ro-

mantic manner by a Voivod called Kalifer who is supposed to have captured in the vicinity a great Vizier together with many horses carrying precious loads, but to have released him afterwards. Thereupon, as a sign of his gratitude, the Sultan is said to have granted him permission to establish a village, which later on apparently became the town of Kalofer. The Voivod Kalifer's tomb is still shown there.



A modern rose — oil distillery

The town was twice pillaged and sacked (1799 and 1840)

by the Kardjali, bandits who during that time of weak central power plundered many places in the Ottoman Empire without being punished. During the Russo-Turkish war of 1877 Kalofer was razed to the ground by the Turks.

Today, owing to its situation, it is a good place for rest and health cures. Pleasant and interesting excursions can be made in the neighbourhood. There is a charming spot about 6 klm. North-East of the town just under Youmrouk Tchal on the right bank of the Ac Dere river, where one is never tired of looking at the beauty of the scenery surrounding the Monastery of Kalofer, built to commemorate the Nativity of the Holy Virgin. During the whole period of the Turkish domination Mass was always pronounced in the Slav language. Together with the town the monastery was burned in 1877. The present buildings, with one exception, are new. Several paintings dating from 1868 by a monk from Gabrovo, can be seen in the old building.



Peasant Women from the Sredna Gora Mountains

Prior to the liberation of Bulgaria this Monastery was on big holidays the meeting place of Bulgarians from Kalofer, Karlovo, Kazanlik, Stara-Zagora and Tchirpan who, after the divine service, used to join in amusements or discuss business.

Kazanlik. — A few kilometres East of Kalofer, the Sredna Gora mountains turn aside from the Balkans, forming a wide plain — the Valley of Roses. This valley is certainly one of the most picturesque places to visit in the whole of Bulgaria. In the spring the air is perfumed by the rose gardens spread out on the slopes of the Stara-Planina. Century old walnut trees stand among the vineyards and fields, raising their foliage to the sky. Kazanlik town is almost in the middle of the valley.

It is mentioned for the first time in history in the 17th cent. It is the centre of the trade in Attar of Roses and has acquired a world wide reputation thereby. The sub-Balkan railway line which is under construction, already exists as far as Kazanlik and



Kurilo Convent — Nuns at work

connects the town to the Stara-Zagora—Russe trans-Balkan line.

Shipka Monastery. — The Russian Monastery, the cupolas of whose church dominate the plain, stands in the Shipka Pass, North of Kazanlik. It was founded in memory of the desperate fighting which took place here in 1877, which made this spot famous. One can go by car to Gabrovo through this Pass, — one of the leading industrial towns in Bulgaria. It is connected by railway with the Northern system of railway lines.

A motor trip in the spring and up to the end of June, from Sofia through Koprivshtitza, Karlovo, and Kalofer to Kazanlik is extremely enjoyable in the beautiful and varied scenery. If this trip is made in May or June at the time of the gathering of the roses, a good part of the journey (Klissura to Kazanlik) lies between blooming rose fields which give a delicious perfume to the atmosphere and make the trip still more charming.



The banks of the Strouma

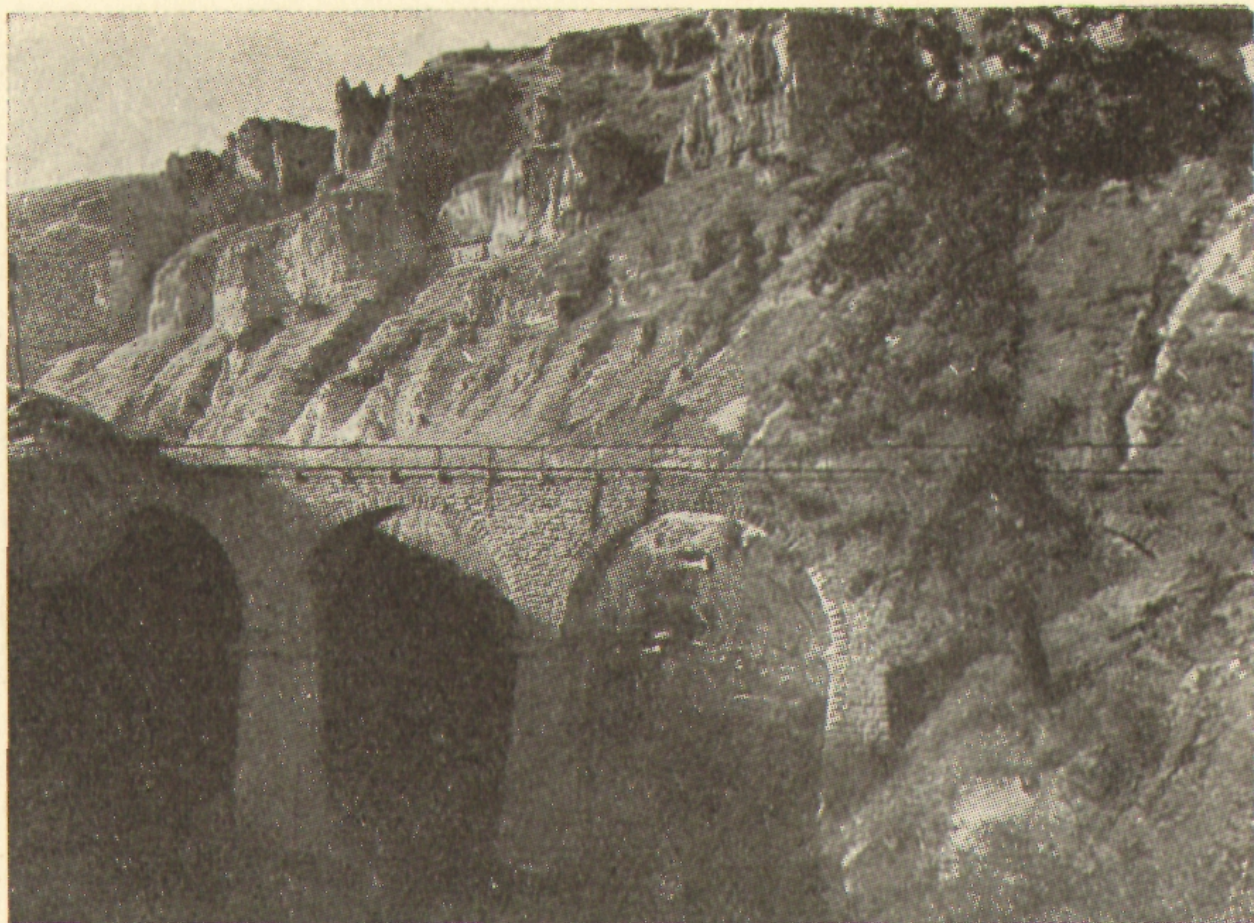
**SOFIA—THE NORTH SIDE OF THE BALKANS—VARNA—
THE BLACK SEA**

Kurilo. — A village on the railway line at the entrance of Iskar gorge. There is a Convent on the other bank of the river. Many Sofia residents visit this spot on Sun-



Girl-worker in the thrashing field

days and holidays during the summer. Actually the whole length of the Iskar river, as it winds across the Sofia Plain, from Pantcherevo to Kurilo and farther on in the gorge to Tcherepitch is peopled during the summer by holiday makers. Many places along the river bank become veritable bathing beaches.



Approaching Lakatnik

Svoge. — A village which thanks to its position right in the gorge, its surrounding scenery and proximity to Sofia has, quite apart from the Sunday and holiday visits of the Sofia residents, become a health resort.

Iskar Gorge. (Oescus). — The only Bulgarian river which, flowing into the Danube, does not take its rise in the Balkan range. Its source is in the Rila, whence it descends through a gorge on to the Sofia plain, and turning into the Stara Planina, intersects it from South to North, forming one of the most picturesque gorges.

The railway passes through this gorge and, on reaching the other side of the Stara Planina, turns Eastwards and goes on to Varna on the Black Sea. There are many branch lines joining the Danube towns: Vidin, Lom, Orehovo, Somovit, Svishtov, and Rustchuk also some other towns: Berkovitza, Lovetch, Leskovetz etc.

The passage through the gorge is most interesting. The line crosses the river in several places and



In the mountains

runs through many tunnels. On both sides rise giant rocks, sometimes forest covered and sometimes bare; whilst below rush the waters of the impetuous Iskar. The locomotive's strident whistle echoes among the surrounding heights.

Lakatnik. — One of the stations beyond Svoge, whose beautiful scenery and the grotto in the crag over the Iskar attracts tourists and sightseers.

Elisseina — The railway station for the Plakalnitza copper mines, whose factory fires and high chimneys recall a centre of industrial activity and movement, a midst nature's splendour.

Tcherepish. — Near here can be seen the Tcherepish Monastery standing among the crags which overhang the gorge; also the curious sight of the „Ritli“ — the torn and worn rocks on the river banks. There is an ancient church here on the site of the Koriten ruins (Middle Ages).

Mezdra. — A fairly busy railway station whence the line for Vidin starts with branches at Boitchinovtzi for Berkovitza and at Brussartzi for Lom.

The road starting South of the village leads to Orhanie.



Teteven

Orhanie — A town in the Stara Planina whose situation attracts many visitors in summer. Living is cheap here. There is a motor car service to Mezdra. The name of Orhanie was given it in the 19th cent. by the famous Governor of Northern Bulgaria under Sultan Abdul Azis, Midhad Pasha, in memory of Sultan Orhan who was one of the founders of the Ottoman Empire.

The town is connected with Sofia (68 klm.) by a road running through one of the most beautiful passes of the Stara Planina, the Araba Konak pass (988 m.). Monuments have been erected here to commemorate the battles which took place in December 1877 between the Russians and Turks. The road, following the pass, runs between the peaks of Murgash (1688 m.), and Ildaz-Tabia (1660 m.) and rejoins in the Zlatitza plain the Karlovo—Pirdop—Sofia highway.

Etropole. — A little town with picturesque views on the river Malki Iskar, right in the Stara Planina, and reached by road from Orhanie through the village of Pravetz. The town is connected through the Zlatitza



A street in Teteven

pass to the village of the same name on the other side of the Stara Planina (38 klm.). This road goes between the summits of Baba (Grandmother) (1.890 m.), Svishtiplatze (1.895 m.) and Pascal (2.031 m.).

Tcherven Breg. — This village which has grown round the railway station of the same name, is a centre for the grain trade and is linked up with Orehovo on the Danube by the 76 cm. narrow gauge railway line.

Lukovit. — A small agricultural town on the Panega river South of Tcherven Breg with which station it is connected by highway and motor car service. The source of the Panega — Glava or Zlatna Panega — a few kilometres above the town is truly a natural wonder. The water gushes out from among chalk rocks, midst luxurient vegetation in the forest, in such volume that it can drive mills. Further up there is a pool in a sort of basin formed by the rocks and near it there are some grottoes.

Teteven. — This is a little mountain town situated on the river among beautiful forests and is reached from Lu-



A corner of Teteven

kovit by the highway, which follows the bed of the Beli Vite river through the large village of Yablanitza. The beautiful scenery surrounding it has made it popular as a resort in the Stara Planina. There are some very interesting walks in the neighbourhood. The ascent of Vegen peak (2.197 m) can be made from Teteven, passing through Kalugerov Dol and Ribaritza.



Ribaritzza — a resort

Pleven (Plevna). — This is one of the principal towns of Northern Bulgaria; it is on the Sofia—Varna railway. A branch line runs from Pleven to Somovit on the Danube. Pleven has about 30,000 inhabitants, and stands in the middle of very fertile land, full of vineyards and orchards, nestling on the Balkan slopes.



Troyan monastery

The position of Plevna makes a natural fortress of it. It became specially famous during the Russo-Turkish war of 1877. The town, with the Turkish General Osman Pasha and his garrison imprisoned in it, withstood a three months' siege. The Russians put up terrific fights, losing some 50,000 men there. A hand-



Hearer view of Troyan Monastery

some Mausoleum has been erected in the town in memory of these fights, and in it are resting the remains of the Russian soldiers who fell during the taking of the town. Weapons, uniforms etc., used during that war, are preserved in the Town Museum. The Mausoleum stands in a pleasant park. The town is rapidly



A Buffalo Cart at the Market

becoming modernised, and already has a graceful appearance.

Levski. — A small town on the Sofia—Varna railway — a centre for the egg and cereal trade. It is a railway junction with a line running to Svishtov on the Danube and another to Lovetch in the Stara Planina.

Lovetch. — An old town, called under the Romans Melita, and at that time an important fortress at the entrance of the Trajan Pass. It stands on the slopes of the Stara Planina, on both banks of the Ossam river, a tributary of the Danube. The town is connected by roads to Pleven and Levsky.

The interesting grotto of Devetak, scarcely 25 klm. from the Ossam river, can be seen 4 klm. from the Doirentvi station (Levski—Lovetch line) not far from Lovetch. The entrance of the grotto is 30 m. high and it widens inside, extending to a length of about 700 m. Light penetrates through three openings. Some interesting objects have been found here: bones, fragments of utensils, stone weapons etc.

Troyan. — A town situated in the picturesque hollow of the Beli Ossam river in the Stara Planina. It is sheltered from the winds by surrounding heights and there is a good road leading to Lovetch. An interes-



Pleven — The Mausoleum

ting spot for visitors, from which many excursions can be made in the neighbourhood, such as the Balkan peaks: Mara Gidik, Kademlia, Ambaritza and Kuppen. The Trayan (Trojan) pass through the Stara Planina connects Trojan with Karlovo in Southern Bulgaria. The old Roman road from Phillippopolis (Plovdiv) to the Danube passed this way. Remains of this road are still to be seen in the forests. The pass, which takes its name from the constructor of the road — the Roman Emperor Trajan — can only be negotiated on foot or horseback to-day. It goes between the peaks Kosia Stena (the Wall of the Goat) where grows the beautiful Alpine flower Edelweis, Vegen (2,197 m.), Ambaritza (2,166 m.) and Kuppen (2,168 m.).

The trans-balkan railway line Danube—Pieven—Lovetch—Karlovo—Plovdiv, which will be one of the most interesting in Bulgaria, is planned to run through here.

The largest monastery in Northern Bulgaria and one of the three largest directly subject to the Holy Synod — the Holy Mother of God Monastery, is 10 km. south of Trojan by a good road; and is a popular health resort, attracting many visitors and tourists



Gabrovo — General view

in the summer, because of its splendid air, really enchanting scenery and numerous objectives for excursions in the neighbourhood,

Pavlikeni. — A large agricultural village with railway station 20 klm from Levsky going towards Varna. The highway, coming from Svishtov on the Danube goes through here to Sevlievo and Gabrovo and descends through the Shipka Pass to Kazanlik in the Valley of Roses, Southern Bulgaria.

Sevlievo. — A town about 45 klm. South, lying at the feet of the Balkans; connected to Pavlikeni by motor car service. It is situated in an interesting hollow on the left bank of the Rossitza river in a rich fruit and grape growing country.

It was an important industrial and commercial town during the Turkish rule, but being isolated from the railway it has reverted to a town of artisans and agricultural workers.

Gabrovo. — This industrial town, nicknamed the Bulgarian Manchester, stands on both banks of the impetuous Yantra, about 30 klm. South East of Sevlievo on the Northern slopes of the Balkan, amidst beautiful forests and scenery. The town is relatively speaking not old—scarcely dated back more than two centuries, but it



Old Houses in Gabrovo

has played an important part in modern Bulgarian history. The town was exclusively Christian during the domination of the Turks and, thanks to its secluded position in the Balkans, was sheltered more than other towns from the impositions of the ruling Turks. Thanks also to the national feeling awakened in its inhabitants, many of whom travelled as merchants in Roumania, Russia and throughout the Ottoman Empire, it very soon aspired to liberty. This tendency was developed by the Aprilov school, which was opened in 1835 — before any other school in Bulgaria. This school was fortunate enough to have as its first teacher the monk Neophyt Rilski, a well known Bulgarian writer who, gave a great impulse to instruction through his new methods of teaching.

Gabrovo is chiefly noted today for its cloth and lace industries, which are developing year by year and greatly improving in quality.

The transbalkan Stara Zagora — Rustchuk railway connects the town to Tzareva Livada, whilst the highway on which is a regular motor car service, runs through the Shipka Pass to Kazanlik in the valley of Roses.

The Shipka Pass became famous during the Russo-Turkish war in 1877 by the terrible fights that took



Towards St Nicholas Peak

place there, in which the Bulgarian volunteer detachments particularly distinguished themselves. This episode of the war has been immortalised by the celebrated picture of the Russia painter Vereshtagin — „On Shipka all is Quiet“.

The traveller sees many monuments, erected along the route, to the memory of soldiers who fell during the war of 1877. The monument recently erected on St. Nicholas peak is the largest of its kind in Bulgaria. It can be seen from both sides of the Balkans from a great distance. The Russian monastery, St. Nicholas, erected in memory of the heroic Russian and Bulgarian soldiers killed during the fights here in the war of liberation in 1877, stands on a terrace above the village of Shipka under the St. Nicholas summit. There is a splendid view over the whole of the Valley of Roses from the monastery, and from the valley one sees the domes of the monastery glittering in the sun.

The highest peak of the Stara Planina, Yumruk Tchal also called the Ferdinand peak (2.385 m.), rises



Shipka Monastery with a View over the Valley of Roses

West of the pass, whilst Buzludja peak rises in the East. The latter peak was made famous by the heroic death of the Voivod Hadji Dimitri, who came from Roumania with a troop of revolutionists, was surrounded by the Turkish armies here and perished, after a heroic defence, with 25 comrades (1868).

Nicopolis ad Istrum. — The site of the historical town of Nicopolis ad Istrum, whose ruins can still be seen, is near the present village of Nikup, on the other side of the Rossitza river. The nearest railway station is Ressen — the last but one before arriving at Gorna Orehovitza, the most important railway junction in Northern Bulgaria. Nicopolis ad Istrum was founded by the Roman Emperor Trajan in memory of his victory against the Dacians. It was at first included in the province of Thrace, defending the entrance of one of the important roads which led from Adrianople via Stara Zagora (Berohe) across the Balkans. Later on it was included in the province of the lower Moesia — becoming one of its most important centres. The town had a very wealthy mint which worked from the time of Trajan to that of Gordian and there



Preobrajensky Monastery — The Entrance

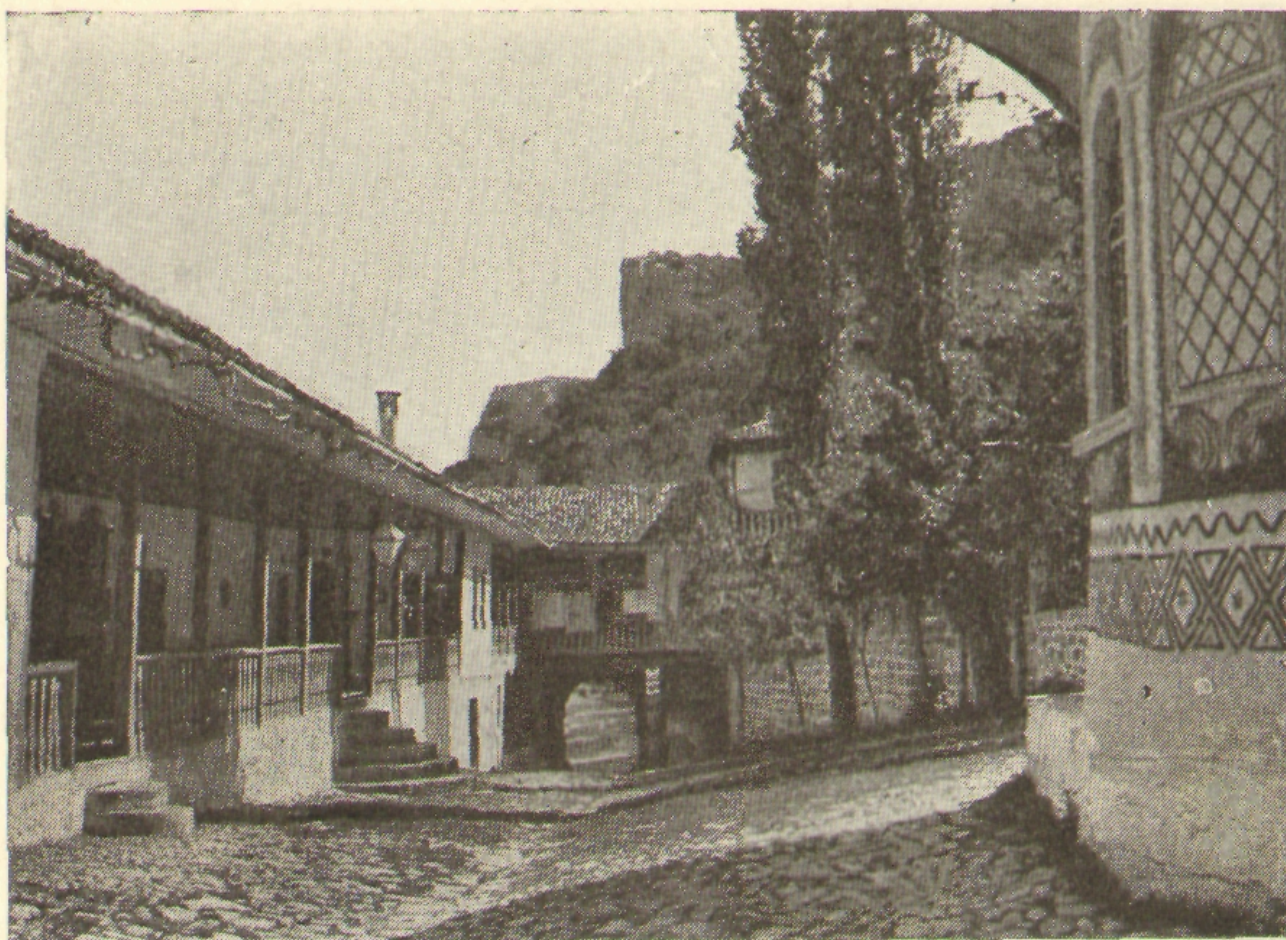
are 381 known types of coins. Among the numerous mythological impressions to be found on these coins are: the personification of Hemus (The Balkan) seated upon a rock with a bear, the god of the river Iskar, the god of wine Bacchus etc. It was here that in 251 Emperor Decius defeated the Goths who were besieging

the town. During the second invasion of the Goths in 378 the inhabitants defended themselves without other assistance.

The town existed up to the year 600. The temples, its great walls guarded by towers, its palaces etc. bear witness to its great wealth.

Gorna Orehovitza. — The railway junction for the Rustchuk—Stara Zagora and Sofia—Varna lines in Northern Bulgaria, having a branch line to Leskovetz. The town itself is hidden by a hill South of the station. The town is known for the big fair which is held every autumn. Gorna Orehovitza has developed considerably since the construction of the Sofia — Varna railway; its excellent wines and table grapes are exported to the European market.

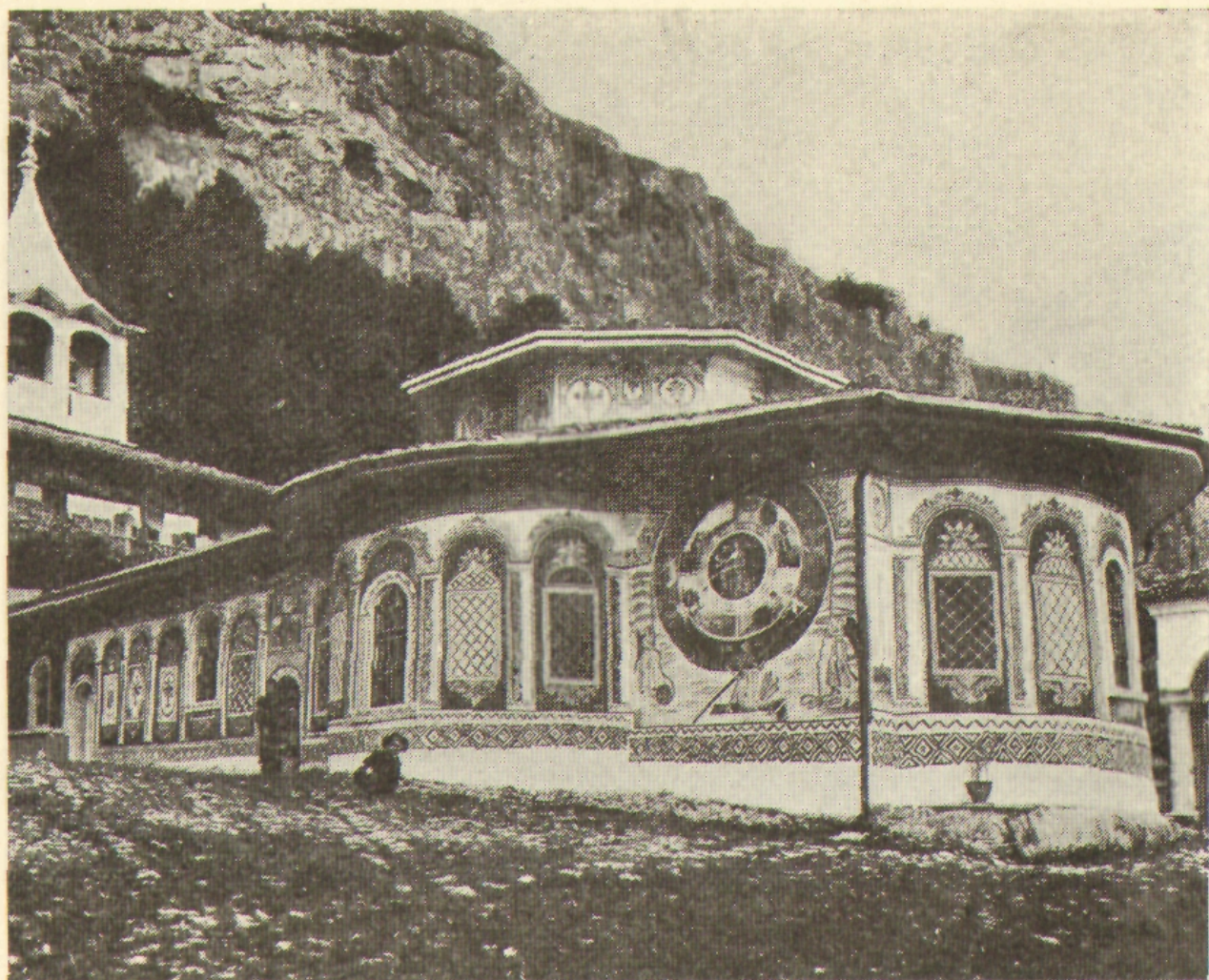
Tirnov. — The second station after Gorna Orehovitza on the transbalkan — Rustchuk — Stara Zagora line. The railway follows the course of the river Yantra through very beautiful scenery, many tunnels and between the high rocks round which the river winds. Before reaching Tirnov, one sees on the right across the river the Monastery Preobrajensky (Transfiguration) and on the left the Holy Trinity Monastery. They



Preobrajensky Monastery — The Court-Yard

were both founded in the Middle Ages. These monasteries are quite close to Tirnovo and are worth visiting. It was in the Holy Trinity Monastery that the last Bulgarian Patriarch, Euthymius, a scholar, occupied himself, prior to the taking of the town by the Turks, with the revision of the ancient Slav text of the Bible. The outside of the church of the Preobrajensky Monastery is fully decorated.

Tirnovo has without doubt the most interesting and picturesque situation of all towns in Europe. Nowhere perhaps has nature so greatly contributed towards the creation of such a marvellous situation, astonishing and compelling the admiration of all visitors to the town. Four plate shaped head-lands, formed by the zigzagging of the Yantra river whose water flows at depths 80 to 120 m. below; four other heights which gradually fall towards the town — in the West Kartal Bair (Mount of the Eagles), on which the greater part of the present town extends along the river, whose point is chisselled down to the form of a narrow isthmus between the bends of the river.



Preobrajensky Monastery — The Church

This isthmus gives access to Tzarevetz (Hissar), which is in the form of a separate plateau shaped hill, on which, inside the walls, the ancient town with the Royal Palaces was situated. To the South of Tzarevetz, on the other side of the river, is Sveta Gora — a forest covered hill, where, in the Middle Ages, monasteries existed; among them the Mother of Jesus Monastery; in the North-West the Trapezitza hill in the form of a peninsula connected to the mountains in the North — the quarter of the aristocracy during the Second Bulgarian Kingdom.

The present town is in the form of an amphitheatre over the Yantra river. The houses are superimposed and it seems almost as if the roofs of one touch the foundation of the other. The view from the station is wonderful in the evening and leaves the spectator lost in admiration. The railway crosses the town through two tunnels.

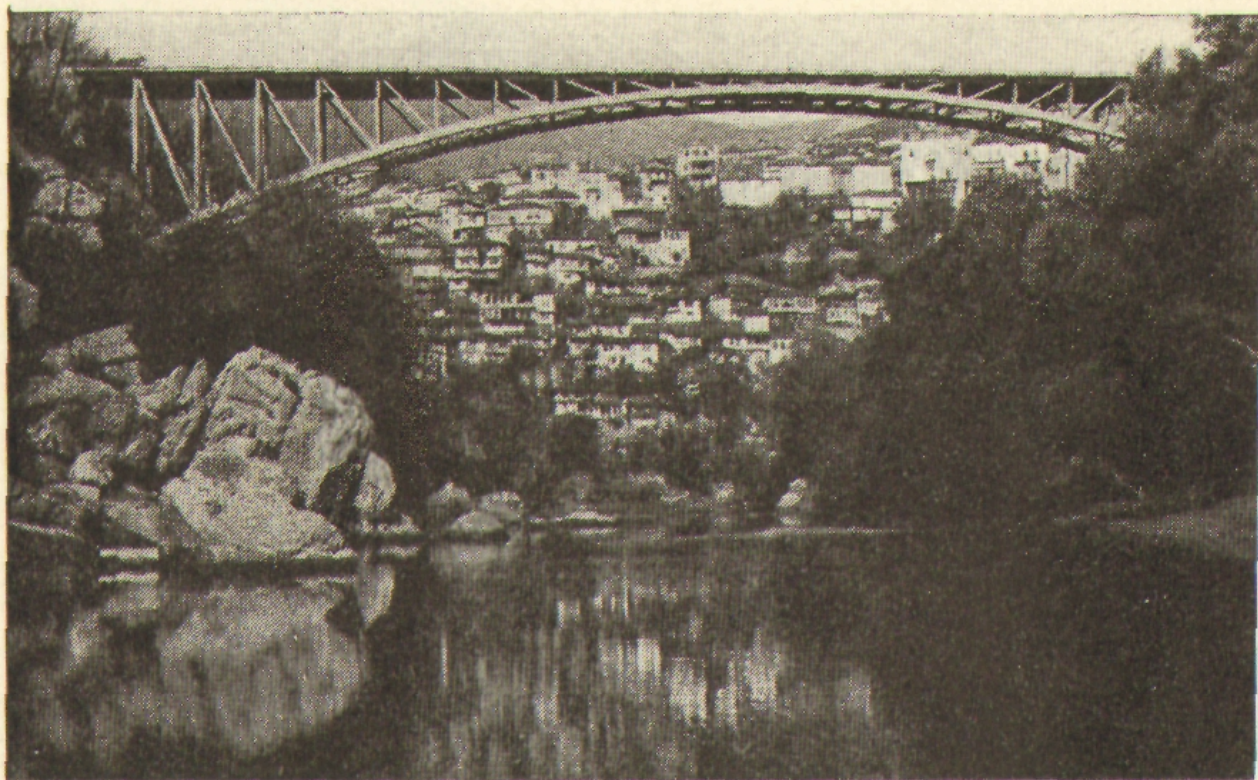
The history of Tirnovο commences in 1186, when the proclamation of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom was made here. The town of Tirnovο became the



Tirnovo — General View

capital and continued as such up to the conquest of Bulgaria by the Turks in 1393. For more than two centuries the Bulgarian Kings successively fortified the town, which owing to its position became almost impregnable. They beautified it with numerous palaces on the Tzarevetz hill and many churches and monasteries in the neighbourhood. Here developed a civilisation, very brilliant for that period, which spread its light over the whole of the Balkan Peninsula and as far as Russia. As an intellectual, religious and ruling centre Tirnovo, at that time rivalled Byzantium. In spite of the devastation which the town suffered, when taken by the Turks, it nevertheless remained a very important commercial centre in the Balkans, during the whole of the Ottoman domination. Numerous souvenirs and remains of monuments bear witness to its glorious past.

One can still follow the form of the fortress by the piles of ruins round the hill of Tzarevetz. Traces of the draw-bridge are still visible at the entrance, which is formed by a narrow isthmus. In one of the towers on the Southern point, still partly preserved, the Latin Emperor Baldwin I is supposed, according to legend, to have been imprisoned. Dilapidated walls of a mosque, apparently built in the



A never to be forgotten view of Tirnovo

16-th cent. and destroyed by earth-quake in 1913, are standing nearly in the centre of the plateau. There is a tourist house with sleeping quarters and a restaurant opposite the approach to the hill. It is very well arranged for making a stay there, and one can have board and lodging for quite a modest price.

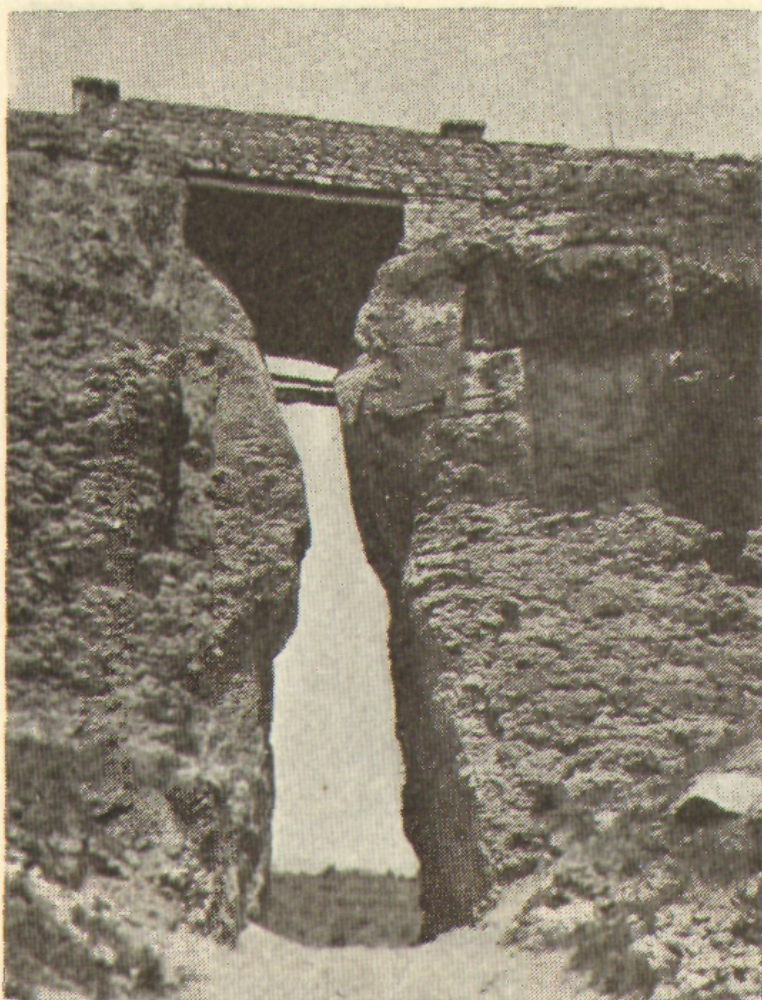
Many small mausoleum-churches built by the nobles of that time have been excavated (17 so far) on Trapezitza, the opposite hill. Their outer walls have pretty incrustation and mosaics. These churches are richly decorated inside; ornaments and small scale images of saints, frescoes representing the saints (St. Dimitri, St. Theodore etc.), warriors, bishops and noblemen of the court. The ornamental style is in general without relief, and the colours are very bright. As the space is limited by the form of the building the decorations and paintings are done in a minute but clear style, which shows a refined taste and art in representation.

Among the churches at the foot of the hills along the river can be seen, in the Assen quarter, the church of St. Dimitri (in ruins) of the 12-th cent. It was here that the Independence of Bulgaria was proclaimed in 1186. The church has interesting incrustations, and a few frescoes which are of a representative character, although hardly visible any longer.



Tirnovo — A bird's eye view of the windings of the Yantra

The church of the Forty Martyrs, built and decorated in 1230 by King Ivan Assen II as a thanksgiving for his victory against Emperor Theodorus Comnenus at Klokotnitsa on the anniversary in 1230 of the Forty Martyrs. The Emperor was taken prisoner with his entire army and the Bulgarians took over his lands from the Aegean to the Adriatic Seas. The church is a basilica with three naves, separated from each other by two rows of three light marble columns, three apses and a small narthex. A vaulted construction was added later on to the Western side. The church had incrustation outside in mosaic form and was probably intended to be the burial place for the dynasty. The Turks destroyed this church and built on the same foundation a mosque which after the liberation of Bulgaria, was converted into a church. The decorations and frescoes were destroyed in the earth-quake in 1913 together with the church. It has since been restored. There are three pillars in the interior. One bears the inscription in Greek „Rodosto Fortress“; it was brought here from Pliska (Aboba), where during the First Bulgarian Kingdom it was set up by Khan



Site of the old draw-bridge, near the Royal Palaces

Krum before his palace in memory of his victories against the Byzantines. The second pillar, also brought from the old palaces at Pliska, bears a Greek inscription which was engraved by order of Khan Omortag (814—831), the son of Krum. This inscription says that he built a palace near the Danube and that he raised a tumulus half way between this palace and his old palaces at Pliska. The third pillar is that of King Ivan Assen II and its in-

scription in Bulgarian gives the reasons why he built the church. Roman capitals, brought here from the ruins of Nicopolis ad Istrum, as well as several Bulgarian capitals from the destroyed churches of Tzarevez and Trapezitza can be also seen here.

The church of St. Peter and Paul stands in the court-yard of the Archbishop's Palace — a semi-basilica, built in the 14th cent., having three naves, three apses and one cupola. It has marble capitals and frescoes from the 14th and 16th cent. Those of the 14th cent. deserve special mention; they are very representative, in baroque, with black and white lighting effects. The hair and beard of the saints are well typified.

The church of St. George, facing the bridge at the foot of the Trapezitza hill, dates from the 17th cent. and has frescoes which are imitations of those of the church of St. Peter and Paul. There are some very interesting objects preserved in the Museum of the local Archeological Society, such as fragments of

the architecture and icons. Further there can be seen in the bishop's palace mitres, crowns, church vestments, icons, sacred vessels, etc.

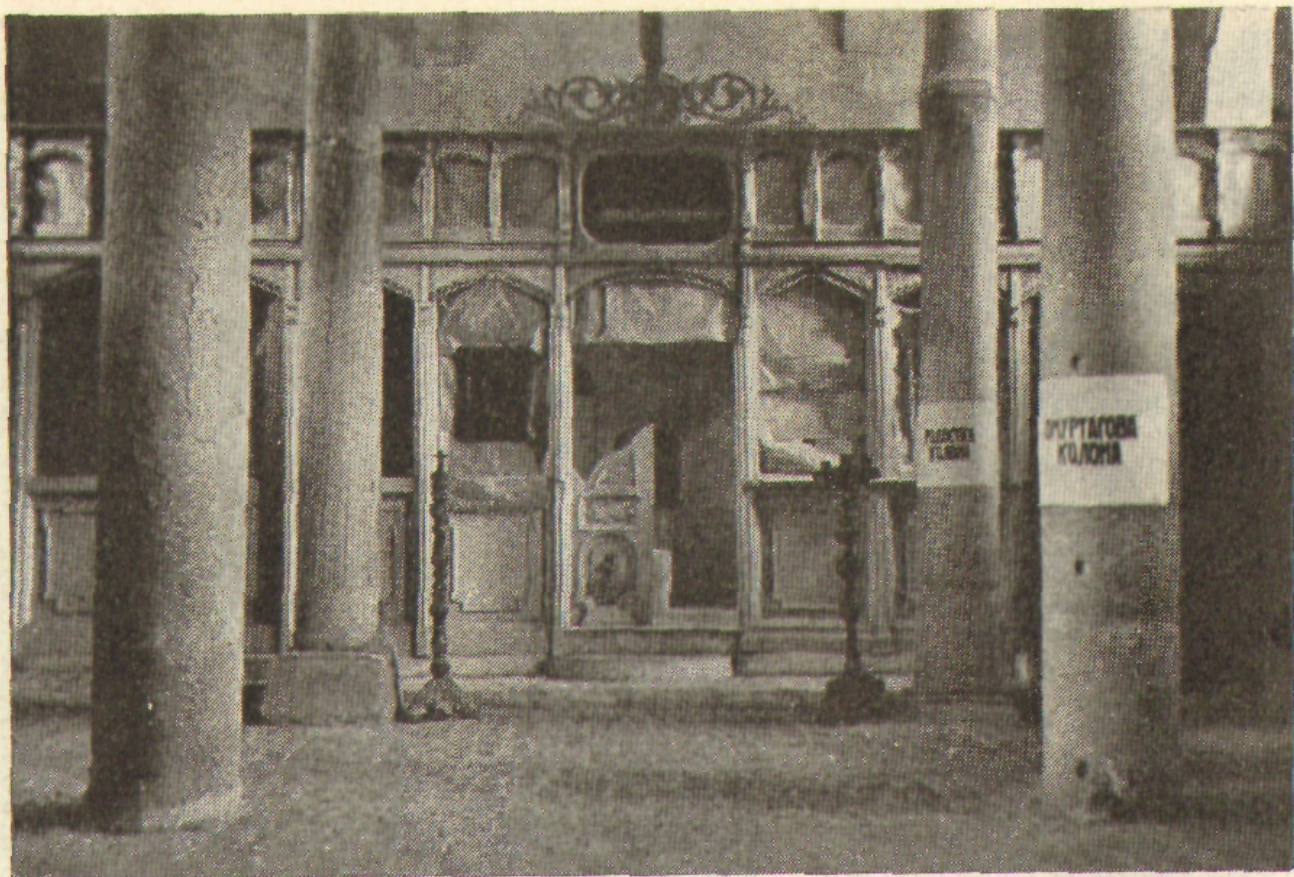
Although now reduced to a chief town of a department, Tirnovo has an important bearing on the history of modern Bulgaria. It was here that in 1879, in the old Turkish Konak (now the law courts), the Constitution was passed; it is also here that the Bulgarian Constituent Assembly meets. At Tirnovo, also, in the year 1908 Tzar Ferdinand sur-

rounded by his ministers proclaimed the Independence. The monument raised on the hill Tzarevetz, reminds visitors of this date so historical for Bulgaria.



Tzar Assen II Column

Arbanassi. — This village, which was founded in the second half of the 15th cent. by Southern Albanians, stands on a small plateau, dominating the river and Tirnovo on the Tirnovo — Gorna Orechovitza highway, not far to the North-East of Tirnovo. As they were endowed with privileges by the Sultans, they were able to enrich themselves by export and import trade. They built two storied dwelling houses in Albanian style, which were fortified to protect them from bandits. The village had the appearance of a small town, where the bishops of Tirnovo used usually to reside. In 1798 the village was plundered by the Kardjali who ravaged the country then. Some of these old houses with their rich decorations can still be seen.



The Kings' Pillars in the Church of the 40 Martyrs

There are two monasteries, St. Nicholas (convent), facing Tirnovo, from which there is a beautiful view over the town and the Ba kans, and the Holy Virgin, both of the 19 th cent., and five churches of the 17-th and 18-th cent. In the church of the Nativity, above the St. Nicholas Convent, are to be seen the portraits of the donors, interesting because of their realistic impression and the costumes of that epoch, as well as frescoes representing religious subjects after the school of Mount Athos. The mystic element, however, dominates that of local customs. The frescoes date from 1632 and 1649. The part reserved for women in the St. Archangel Church, 1600, was decorated in 1760 by the masters Michael of Salonica and George of Bucarest. The church of St George was decorated by the Bulgarian masters Christo and Stoyan, the church of St. Athanas by the master Stoyo and his assistant Nedio, both Bulgarians.

Kilifarevo. — A village a few kilometres from Tirnovo with a monastery of the same name not far from it. The church of the monastery is of the 14-th cent. with frescoes of the 71-th cent., which are copied from those of the church of St. Peter and Paul in Tirnovo. The

monastery itself is of the 19-th cent.

Drenovo. — The transbalkan railway, the most interesting of all lines in the Balkan Peninsula from the point of view of the technical difficulties which were overcome when laying the track there, and for the really enchanting spots through which it runs as it crosses the Balkans, continues, after Tirnovo, right into the Stara Planina mountain range.



Tirnovo — A Tunnel under the town

It passes through numerous tunnels and makes figure of eight detours in two places, in order to rise to an altitude of over 882 m. at Krestetz. From the train can be seen in various places, excellent views of the mountains covered with beautiful forests. Here and there in the forests are openings or little plateaus with meadows or cultivated fields. Secluded in these wooded heights, where almost perpendicular rocks rise, are little towns or villages serving as summer resorts.

In one such spot is the little town of Drenovo, about 24 klm. along the railway line from Tirnovo. Here, as in other towns hidden in the Sredna Gora and the Balkans, handicrafts flourished during the Turkish domination, and the national feeling was always sustained.

Prosperity and the architectural taste of the inhabitants of that time led to the building of spacious wooden houses in Bulgarian style, fronting on the street and with open balconies overlooking the courtyard. In one of the narrow, winding and roughly



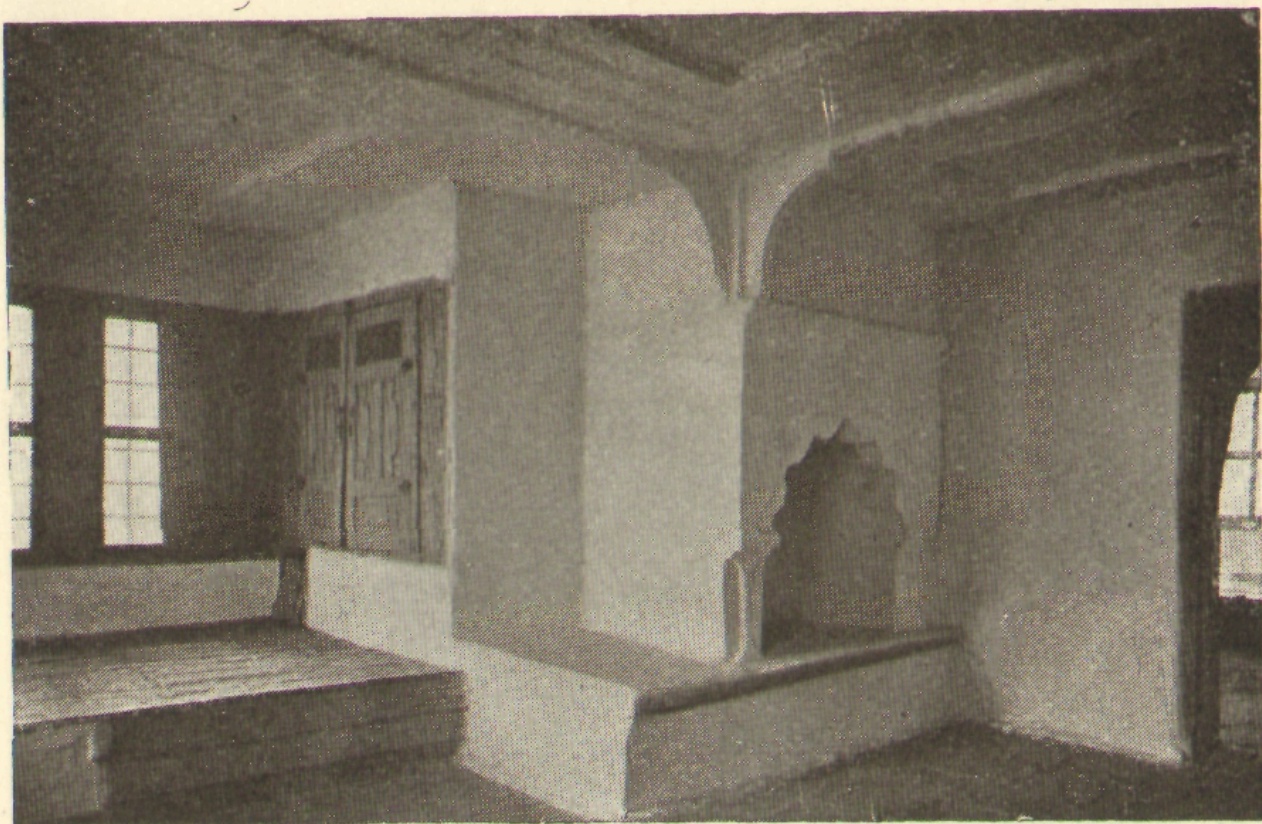
Arbanassi — „The King's House“ — Residence of a Bulgarian notable of the 17-th cent.

paved streets of this town can be seen the finest wooden house in Bulgarian style, with three stories, of which, the upper overhangs the street, and with shops on the ground floor—the house of the brothers Laftchieff.

One hour's walk South of Drenovo, near the railway, at the foot of the rocky crag, is the Drenovo Monastery, where during the rising of 1876 about 400 of the rebels were defeated by the army of Faslâ Pasha of Shumen.

Tzareva Livada. — The next station after Drenovo, 8 klm. along the railway. The town, which is a summer resort, lies behind the station. The line to Gabrovo branches off here.

Trevna. — About 10 klm. by rail from Tzareva Livada is the little Balkan town of Trevna; lying in a picturesque situation with very interesting mountainous surroundings. During the Turkish rule it was a centre for architects, wood-carvers and icon painters, who were noted for their work throughout the Balkan Peninsula. Old houses with the characteristic architecture of mountainous regions, with rich carved wood ornamentations inside and outside, and extre-



Arbanassi — „The King's House“

mely interesting ceilings, pillars, balustrades etc. can be seen here. There are also churches of the 19-th cent. with icons and carving in wood, as well as artisans, houses designed according to the requirements of the handicraft (the Kazassoff's house for example).

Platchkovtzi. — The next station after Trevna with the village of this name, like most of the others in that part of the Stàra Planina, is a pleasant summer resort.

Krestetz, the highest point over which the railway passes, comes next; then Borushtitza near which are anthracit. mines. The line then descends sharply to the valley between the Stara Planina and the Sredna Gora.

Dabovo. — The transbalkan railway branches off here from the Rustchuk — Stara-Zagora line. It runs along the Balkan mountains from Tvarditza, where there is a black-coal mine, looming over the valley like a giant. It rejoins the Plovdiv — Bourgas line via Sliven at Zimnitza. The transbalkan line goes to Tulovo, where the sub-balkan line branches off West to Kazanlik. At Stara-Zagora it joins the Plovdiv — Bourgas line — leaving it at Nova Zagora to join up with the International line Constantinople — Sofia — Belgrade, at Zlaten-Dol.



A Sreet in Drenovo?

Leskovetz. — A town 1 klm. from Gorna Orehovitza occupying both sides of the highway going to Elena and surrounded with vineyards and orchards. The Western part of the town rests on the side of a hill. Leskovetz is a centre for gardeners, who have gone every summer since the middle of the 18-th cent. to work in Roumania, Yougoslavia and Central Europe; returning in the autumn with their savings. The organisation of their work and distribution of profits, which are based upon a system of primitive cooperation, are very interesting.

The town is an important centre for dessert grapes and cherries. It is connected by railway to the central line Sofia—Varna. South of the town, in a forest, perched on a rocky crag 250 m. high, is the St. Peter and Paul Monastery. The church was destroyed by the earth-quake in 1913, but the monastery building is still intact. Every year a course for church singing, which was started in 1874, is held here.

There is a wonderful view from the monastery over the lowland which stretches from the Danube



Drenovo Monastery. — A Refuge of the Bulgarian Revolutionists during the Turkish domination

plain as far as Elena. This little plain is dotted with villages, some of which are quite large and wealthy. Further on the view is lost in the distance in the Danube plain.

Elena. — A small town in the Stara Planina of comparatively recent date, which was an important centre under the Turks. It can be reached by highway via Gorna Orehovitza—Leskovetz or via Tirnovo. The route passes among vineyards, fields and orchards and then enters the gorge, continuing to Elena in the midst of the Stara Planina, on its Northern slope. Thanks to its climate, pure air and beautiful mountainous scenery Elena has become an important health resort. As in other mountain towns handicrafts flourished here during the time of the Turkish rule. The church wall paintings are by native masters, as in Trevna. Some of these masters were called to work also in the large towns, such as Plovdiv, Tirnovo etc.

The spacious wooden houses of the wealthy, in the architecture of mountain regions with their overhanging upper stories and large balconies, are interesting to see. The rooms on the lower story are used



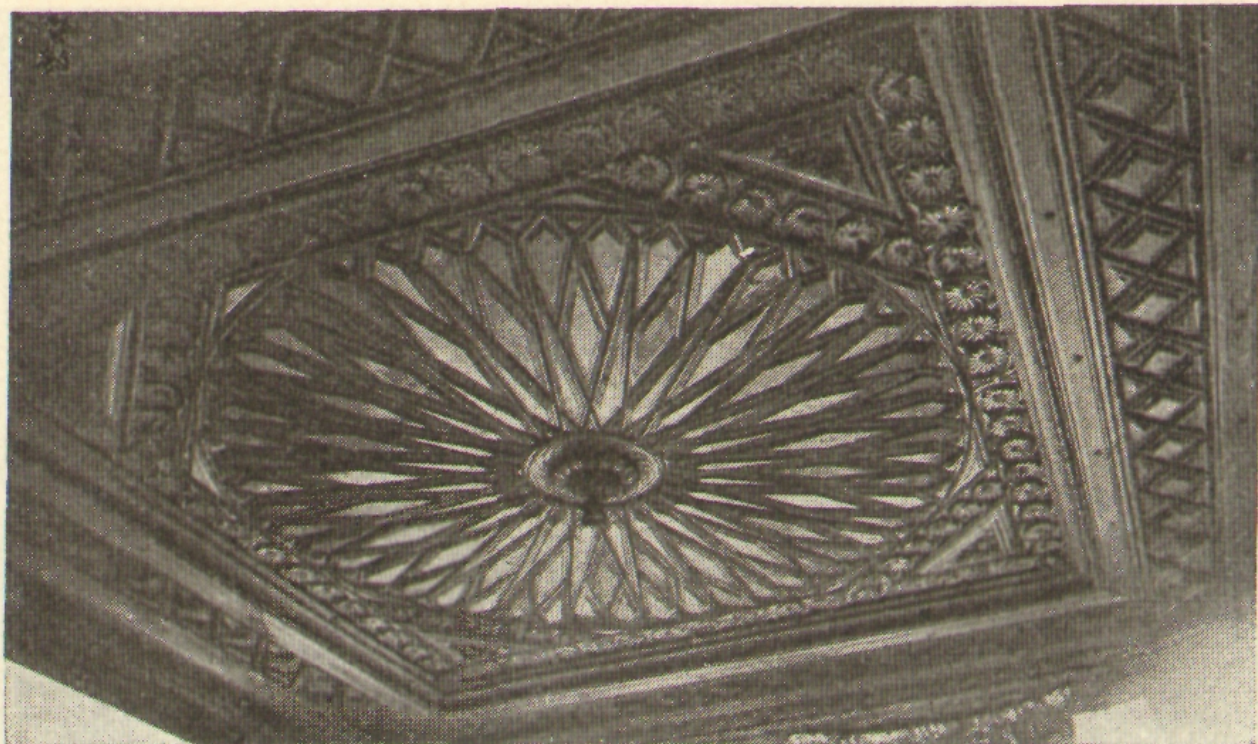
Trevna — the high street

during the winter and those of the upper story during the summer.

The road descends from Elena via the Tvarditza pass to the Tvarditza railway station, on the other side of the Balkans, on the sub-Balkan Dabovo—Sliven line. The distance is 42 klm. One and a half hours from Elena there is the Tchumerna tourist hut on the highest point of the pass (1093 m.) under the summit of the same name which is 1592 m. high. Elena is connected by a road with Sliven (70 klm.) in South Bulgaria, through the pass of the Iron Gate or Vratnik (Portal), which separates the Eastern Balkans from the Central.

Popovo. — This is a little town on the Sofia—Varna railway, about 60 klm, East of Gorna Orehovitza, a local trading centre connected with Razgrad by a fine highway. The egg and cereal trade is very prosperous here owing to the numerous wealthy villages in the district.

Eski Djumaya. — The town lies on the Vrana river, in a flat valley which is shut off in the South from Preslav by the Balkans. It was founded during the Turkish rule, probably by the Bulgarians who turned to Mohammedism. The mosques can still be seen



Ceiling of a House in Trevna. Worked in 1808 for a wage
two between master joiners

there. Eski Djumaya is noted for its fair, which was famous throughout Turkey during the Turkish rule. It is still held every year in the month of May, but has lost much of its importance.

Osman Pazar. — A little town, the centre of the Gerlovo and of a part of the Tuzluk regions with their wide-spread steppes. It is connected by a road with Eski Djumaya on which communications are easy, and across the Balkans via the Kotel pass, through the town of the same name (37 klm.) to the Straldja station on the Plovdiv-Bourgas line. The road goes through one of the most interesting passes of the Stara Planina, which is covered here with large forests, rich in game and very pleasant to go through.

Kotel. — The town is situated in the Balkan mountains 37 klm. from Osman Pazar and 50 klm. from Straldja station on the Plovdiv—Bourgas line, and is connected with the latter station by motor car service. Kotel has become together with certain of the surrounding villages, such as Titcha and Jeravna, a very agreeable health resort, thanks to its pure air, large forests, beautiful scenery and interesting places for excursions. Board and lodging are very cheap here.



Jeravna, Kotel District — Young Girls at the Well

Kotel (Boiler) was an important centre during the Turkish rule; like other military towns in the Balkans, Kotel obtained privileges from the Sultans. The population who thirsted for knowledge, very soon developed a desire for national liberty. Quite a number of famous Bulgarians came from Kotel. Isolated as it is in the Balkans, it has not made any progress since the emancipation of Bulgaria; on the contrary, its population has decreased.

Preslav. — A railway station 30 klm. further East. The town itself is 9 klm. South of the station, in a little valley under the Balkan slopes, not far from the pass whereon the Titcha river takes its rise. The situation is very picturesque with a beautiful view looking South.

There is a railway to Varbitza in course of construction across the pass of the same name.

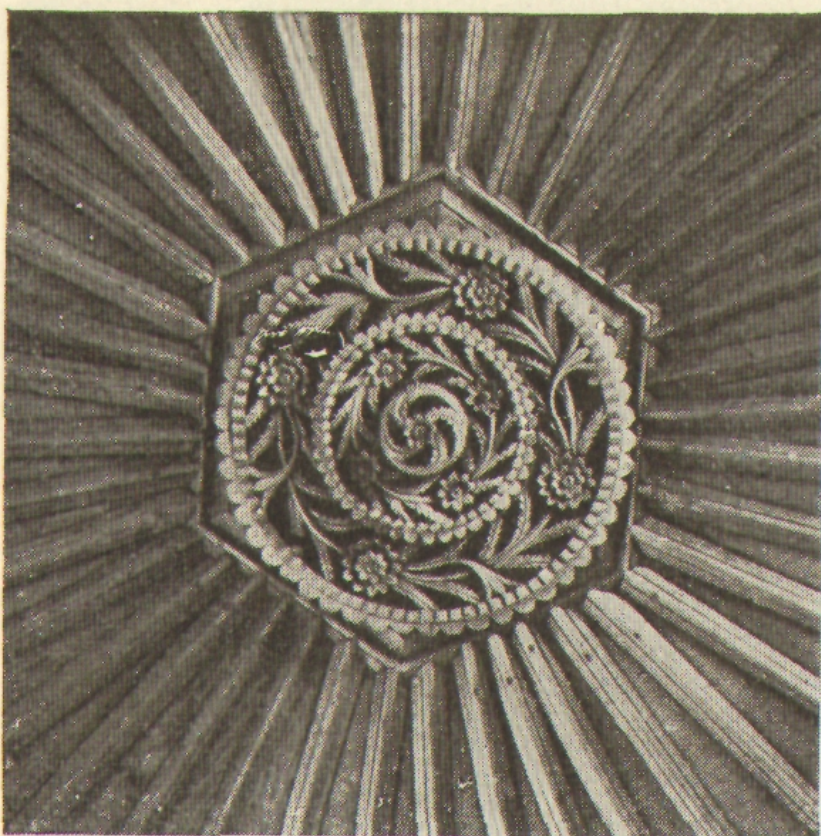
The second capital of the first Bulgarian Kings in the 10th cent., named by the Byzantines Preslav the Great (The Glorious town), stands at the exit of the pass above the present town, which still retains the ancient name. This town was founded in 821-822 by Khan Omorthag, who first of all had a fortified camp here.



A Bulgarian Peasant House — The Covered Veranda (Tchardaka)

The Museum of the present town of Preslav possesses a collection of coloured ceramics which is unique of its kind; it came from the church of the Patleina Monastery, where it was used to cover the walls. It is essentially Mediterranean in character (palmettes, volutes and rosettes). There is also an image representing St. Theodore and fragments of small images of saints. The picture of St. Theodore is composed of 25 ceramic squares.

The excavations undertaken on the site of the ancient town have brought to light the Royal Palace which, according to a writer of the time, John the Exarch, caused the visitor to wonder at its splendour. The interesting ruins of a fortress and of a round shaped church can be seen there. The building was all done in large square stones. Czar Simeon the Great, who was brought up at the Byzantine court, founded a town here which rivalled Byzantium, not only by its material splendour, fortresses, churches, palaces etc., but also by the intensity of its intellectual life.



Carved Wood Ceiling in a Bulgarian House

Paleinta. — A locality near Preslav. A monastery of the same name, built by Tzar Simeon the Great in the 9-th or the beginning of the 10th cent. stands there. The foundations of the monastery and the church can be seen. An oven has been found in the monastery which was used for baking the glazed tiles for the

church. It would appear that this monastery was a Bulgarian Academy at that time, where learned men, monks and laymen, versed above all in science and religious art, fore gathered. The church is a small semi — basilica with three apses and one narthex. The dome is supported on four pillars. This is the oldest semi — basilica with one dome yet discovered on Bulgarian territory.

Shumen (Shumla). — The second railway station after Preslav. An important North Bulgarian town, lying on the banks of the Bokludja river, which runs from the heart of a plateau, at whose feet the town extends from South to North. The town appears to have been founded in the time of the First Bulgarian Kingdom. Under the Turks it was a first class fortified town, standing at the entrance to the Balkans, and was at the same time very prosperous. The surroundings are very fertile.

The largest mosque in Bulgaria, Tombul Djamia, built by the Vizier Sherif in 1649 stands in the South — West — the old part of the town. It is the most beautiful monument of Moorish art in the Balkan Peninsula.



Shumen — The Tombul Mosque

There are fountains and basins in the court yard, and Turkish benches constructed with large stone blocks, with a special place for the judge and for prayers. The town Museum contains for the most part pre — historical and Roman antiquities. There are some interesting old houses of wood and brick with carved wood ornamental ceilings, and two churches of the 19th cent. one of which was built in 1829 on the site of a former small church. On a hill above the town is the grotto, Hendi — Bunar, above which are the ruins of Hissar, a fortress of the Middle Ages, near which a monastery is believed to have existed.

The sites of the armed camps of the first Bulgarian Kings, Madara, Pliska and Preslav can be most easily visited from Shumen.

Madara — A village with railway station, near a plateau similar to the Shumen plateau, which is cut through by bare crags in the East. There are grottoes in these crags, which served as dwelling places or places for prayer in both the heathen and Christian eras. There are also remains of buildings, probably fortresses, which were erected by the different peoples who followed each other here.



A Fountain in the Court-yard of the Tombul Mosque.

The Bulgarian Khans, particularly Omorthag, constructed a large fortress or, rather, fortified camp in this place. Excavations undertaken a few years ago have revealed many ruins. The most interesting monument is the enormous bas-relief hewn in the rock, depicting a rider chasing a lion through whose body he has run a spear. The rider is followed by a grey hound. He holds a square bowl in his left hand and the reins in his right. The

inscription round the rider says that this bas-relief was cut by order of Lhan Omorthag to perpetuate the memory of his father Khan Krum the conqueror of the Greeks and the Avars. The most interesting point about this monument is that it reveals the original old Bulgarian art. Everything about it is realistic, the figures are natural, there is no perspective, but all the same it is full of expression and life. There stood before this bas-relief an enormous fortress, which was probably built on the site of an old Roman fortress.

Pliska (Aboba) — The site of the first capital, or rather fortified camp of the first Bulgarian Khans. It is about one hours walk north from Madara, near the Pliska station, which is the first after Kaspitchan on the

Kaspitchan-Rus-tchuk line. The place is surrounded by a big rectangular ditch. A little to the South of the centre of the camp are the ruins of the mighty buildings of palaces surrounded by a huge wall 2.6 m. thick of large square stones. At every corner of the walls a round tower stood and on each side of the wall were two five-sided towers. Inside the walls are the ruins of the palaces: the dwelling houses, the church and the



Rocks near the „Madara Rider“

throne palace. The church was probably in the first instance a heathen temple and was afterwards enlarged and transformed to a church following the conversion of the Bulgarians to Christianity. The walls of the palace were also made of large square stones. Khan Boris was converted to Christianity here in 866, together with a part of his nobles and army.

The first Bulgarian Khans built their fortified camps, which were connected with each other and occupied the best strategic points in Moesia, on a plain in the form of a triangle in front of the passes through the Balkans: Provadia — Aitos and Preslav — Varbitza — Kotel — Straldja. From these places there are beautiful views over the whole plain as far as Dobrudja in the North and the Black Sea in the East.



The Madara Crag

Entrenched in these almost impregnable camps, the Bulgarian Khans extended their territories, which at times comprised almost the whole of the Balkan Peninsula. At the same time they developed a state of civilisation astonishing for that period, which reached its highest point after the conversion of the Bulgarians to Christianity, especially under Tzar Simeon the Great.

Excavations made on these three sites: Preslav, Madara and Pliska, have already revealed architectural and artistic works, which besides the Byzantine influence predominant after the conversion of the Bulgarians to Christianity, reveal, especially under the first Khans the originality of a Bulgarian art, which proves the existence of a civilisation still little known. The visitor is repaid for coming here not only by the wonderful views, but by the opportunity for studying this original art.

Gradually these historical places, as with Tirnovo, are becoming objectives for pilgrimages by Bulgarians,



The Madara Rider

who thereby acquire a knowledge of the glorious pages of their history; giving them fresh energy for the material and spiritual progress of their country.

Kaspitchan — The next station after Madara with a branch line to Rustchuk on the Danube, also a narrow gauge line leading via Novi Pazar to the bulgar-Roumanian frontier at Craina, the last station.

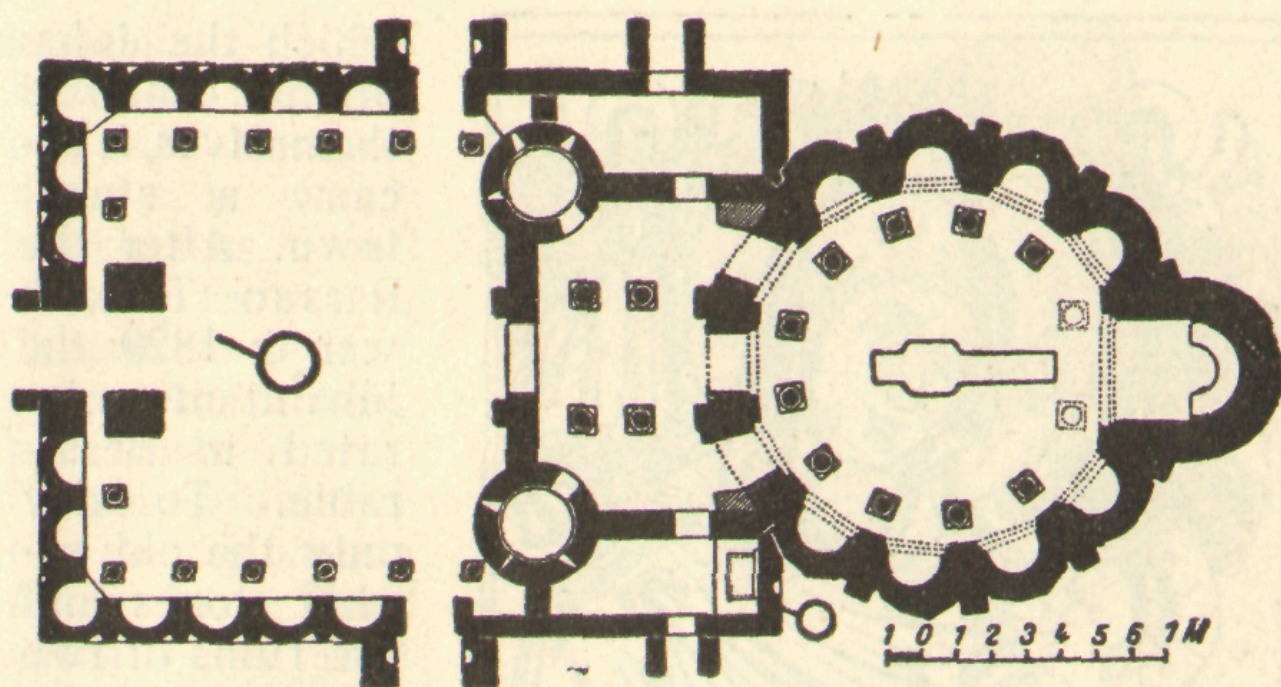
Novi Pazar — A little town a few kilometres from Kaspitchan, near which there is a china clay quarry.

Provadia — Second station after Kaspitchan. The town is situated on the Provadia river and seems to be hemmed in on two sides by crags. The situation of the town is magnificent. Overhead on the crags bordering the little valley there are some grottoes having in front of them what appear to be large rings. It is said that these rings served to hold boats, in olden times, when the sea is supposed to have reached as far as this place. The same tale is told also in the neighbourhood of Karnobat and Shumen.



General View of the Excavations at Madara

The town dates from the Middle Ages. The Byzantines speak of a strong citadel called Provaton (Sheep), which the Slavs call Ovetche. The town was already important in the 11th cent., whilst according



Plan of the Church of Simeon the Great at Preslav

to a legend of 1581 it was founded by Tzar Simeon the Great. During the incursions along the Bulgarian coast by Amadeus of Savoya (the Green Count), in 1366, two of his vassals were captured by the Bulgarians and imprisoned in the Provadia stronghold. The Turks called this stronghold Tash Hissar — the Stone Fortress. During the Turkish rule, in the 16th and 17th cent., Provadia was one of the leading business towns of Bulgaria. Practically all the buildings were of stone. There were seraglios, a colony from Ragusa, covered market halls etc.

The ruins of the fortress which rose above the town, on the crags, guarding the passage through the Balkans, and the fine position of the town make a visit worth while. The town lost much of its importance later, but since the Great War it is yearly growing in importance as a centre of the cereal trade.

The highway which goes from here over the Aitos pass to Aitos in Southern Bulgaria, on the Plovdiv — Bourgas railway, runs through gorgeous scenery. The road, which is 80 klm. long, and is served by motor car between Provadia and Aitos, goes through little tunnels in a rocky region.

Dobrina. — A village on the railway line, 3 klm. from Provadia. It was founded, as Arbanassi near Tirnovo was, by the Albanians. Owing to the trade with



The Virgin Mary with the Holy Child.
Antique Wood Carving. (Ethnographical
museum. Sofia)

which the inhabitants occupied themselves, it became a small town. After the Russo Turkish war in 1829 the inhabitants migrated to Bessarabia. To-day only the old paving stones and the ruins of two churches remain.

Sindel. — A station 18 klm. from Dobrina whence the line to Dolen Tchiflik branches off — a village amidst forests under the slopes of the Balkans. The railway crosses the Kamtchia river on whose

banks is the great Longoza forest, which consists of oaks and elms hundreds of years old. Near the village is the centre of the Titcha undertakings with their timber mills. In a picturesque spot above the village there is a centre for breeding roes.

Razdelna. — This little station is about 20 klm. from Varna. There is a branch line to Oborishte on the Bulgar Roumanian frontier and to Dobritch (Bazardjik) in the Dobrudja. At Medjedie it rejoins the Constantza — Bucarest line, thereby connecting Varna direct with Warsaw via Bucarest.

Devnia. — The first station on the Razdelna — Oborishte line. The village lies in the Western part of a small valley. The Devnia river which springs from Vaclusian sources, runs through the valley. There are numerous mills near the village standing amidst verdant meadows along the river banks.

Marcianopolis. — It is here that the site of old Marcianopolis is seen, which was founded by Emperor Trajan and became the principal town of the Roman province of the Lower Moesia. This town had the right to strike coins, of which 263 types have



Capital of a Pillar in the Palace of Simeon the Great

been discovered. Among others they bear effigies of Apollo, and Serapis god of the river, holding a reed in his hand, the god of wine Dyonisius with a bunch of grapes and the goddess Demetra with ears of corn, Aesculapius etc. The town existed up to 602. Ruins and the remains of numerous foundations can still be seen here.

According to a legend of the 6th cent. the founding of the town was brought about through the following incident:

The serving maid of Marcia, Trajan's sister, when fetching water from the river dropped the heavy golden vessel into the water. Some time afterwards this is said to have floated to the surface, whereupon Trajan presumed that these waters must be inhabited by some divinity (*fontique numinis quoddam inesse credens*), and founded a town giving it the name of his sister.

A few kilometres lower the marshes commence and towards Gebedje begin to form lakes, one of which, lake Devnia, extends as far as Varna and is several kilometres long.

On the South side of this laké wooded heights rise, on one of which at about an hour and a half's walk from Devnia, the site of the Petritch fortress (Petritch Kalessi), which was noted for its very difficult approach, can be seen. It stands on the point between Gebedje and the Avren village. The fort was sepa-

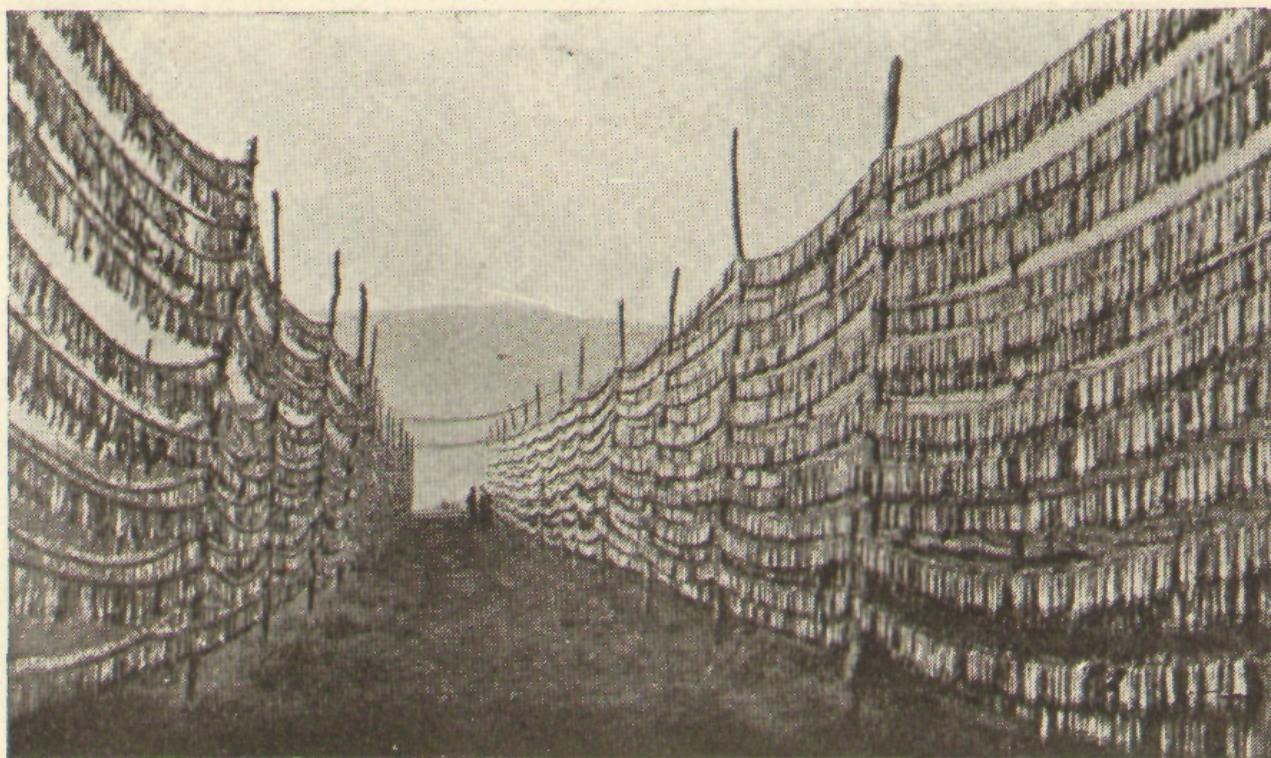


Evening on Lake Gebedje

rated from the surrounding heights by a moat about 10 m. wide cut into the rocks. There is a stairway of 120 steps hewn out of the rock. The view from the top is delightful. The fort was taken after a bloody fight between the Turks and the Christian army led by the Polish King Vladislas Varnentchek on the 7th of November 1444. The fortress is said to have been defended by 5.000 Turkish soldiers, who were massacred and hurled over the bastions. The numerous Christians found imprisoned there were released.

Gebedje. A station lying on the lake of the same name, which is noted for crabs. There is a glass factory near here. Some distance away, near Aladin village, are the stones, Dikili-Tash, which are noted because of their curious position — a real freak of nature. About 30 stones are placed without any order, in the form of natural pillars. The highest is about 3½ m. and 2 m. diameter. Grass grows on the surface of these stones and reddish and greenish lichens on the sides. The ground here is of deep sand with flat rocks and grottoes.

There is another group of similar stones like natural pillars near Gebedje village. They are not so numerous but stand closer to each other.



Drying „Chirozhe“ on the Black Sea shore

Varna. The town lies on the shore of the Black Sea. Lake Devnia flows into the sea just South of the town. The harbour is between Galata point, South of lake Devnia, and the Varna point on which the town stands, with the garden and the bathing beaches. The depth of the lake flowing behind the harbour will make it possible one day to build the largest port on the Black Sea here. There is at the present time a dock for ship repairs on the lake near the industrial quarter.

Varna was mentioned for the first time in history under the name of Odessus between Callatis and Apollonia (Kaliakra and Sozopol) on Pontus Euxinus, by Strabon. Founded by the Milesians at the time of the median Astyage in 585 B. C., this Greek colony was the best situated, as, unlike the others, it had openings at one and the same time to the sea and inland. Odessos, later Odyssos, then Odyssopolis — the town of Ulysses, was built in the centre of the bay in the country of the Kobbyses, a Thracian tribe whose lacustrine villages are found on lake Gebedje. Thanks to the fertility of the land and the abundance of sea fish the town was an important commercial centre.



Varna — The Park overlooking the Beach

The Romans came here in the 1st cent.; they confirmed the freedom of the town, protected the highways and assisted the town to develop. The right to strike coins was retained and its rich numismatic gives us the best indication of its progress in the region of art, as well as in its economical and cultural relations, which extended as far as Syria. The town was much exposed to the invasions of barbarians during the Byzantine period. It was, however, sufficiently strong to defend itself. In 540 a great tidal wave, enveloping an area of 4 km. inland, completely submerged the town. Emperor Justinian I hastened to restore and fortify it as a defence against the Avars, who laid waste this region, along the Marcianopolis highway, four times in less than 20 years. The name of Odessos is mentioned for the last time in 596 in connection with a Byzantine campaign against the Slavs. Under Asparuch the Bulgarians took possession of the town in 677, after the defeat of Constantine IV The Pogonat, who was forced by the treaty of 679 to acknowledge the Bulgaro-Slav Kingdom from Lom and the Balkans to the Dniester. Near the Quarantine, South of Varna one can see the famous trench (Germe or Erkessia) under the name of



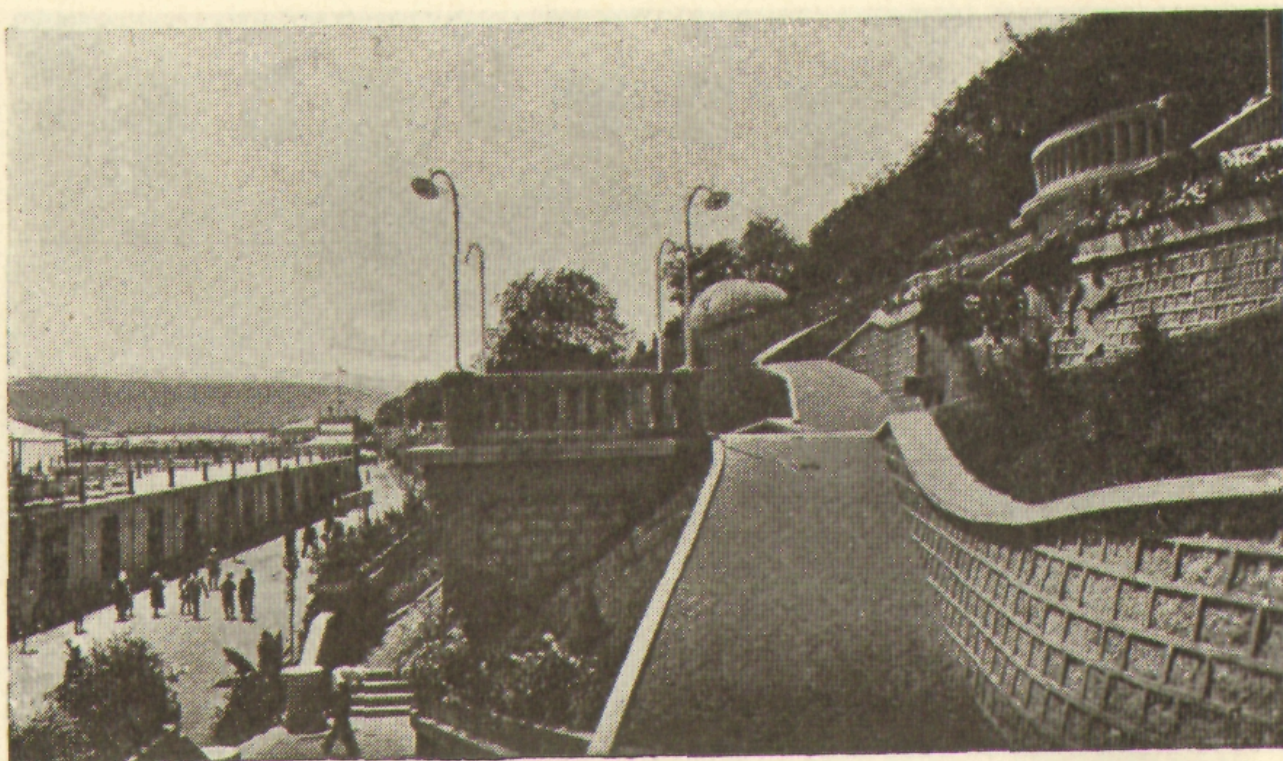
Varna — View of the Sea from the Park

Kum Tepeler (the Sand Hills), which was dug at that time as a defence against a new Byzantine invasion.

The geographer Isrissi spoke of Barnos in 1153 as a large sea town. Tzar Kaloyan aided by engines of war took Varna on Easter Saturday 1202 (Second Bulgarian Kingdom). Varna became an important commercial town, in constant relations with the Republics of Venice and Ragusa, which obtained privileges there for their subjects.

In 1346 Dobrotich, the despot of maritime Bulgaria, chose Varna for his residence. Count Amadeus IV of Savoya, who was summoned by the Greeks to help against Dobrotich, who had taken nearly all the fortresses along the Western coast of the Black Sea, wishing to extend his authority over the whole of the Pontus Euxinus, failed before Varna. In the year 1391 Varna yielded to the Turks under the command of Karadja Bey, a general of Bajaset I, after a long defence, two years before the fall of Tirnovo.

Half a century later the young King of Poland and Hungary, Vladislav III, surnamed Varnenchek, undertook, together with the famous Voivod of Transilvania, John Corvin of Hunyado, the well known



Varna — A pathway to the Bathing Beach

crusade which freed Northern Bulgaria. The crusade, however, ended in fatal disaster, when the brilliant Royal Knight, who had been carried away by his striking successes, met an early death before Varna. The victory which the bravery of 20.000 Christians had seemed to promise against the 120.000 Musulmans of Murad II, was turned to defeat (1444).

From then on the harbour of Varna was closed to overseas traffic. It was only during the 17-th cent. that the English and Dutch obtained permission to export certain raw material, such as: grain, timber, skins etc. In the 18-th cent trade was intensified, thanks to the French merchant fleet which freely navigated Turkish waters, under the protection of the capitulations. During the Russo-Turkish wars of the 18-th and 19-th cent. Varna, being a first class fortified town, was often besieged and several times taken. During the Crimean war in 1854 it served as a concentration camp for the Anglo-French troops. An outbreak of cholera made many victims and their remains rest in the Catholic cemetery where a Mausoleum was built in 1888, surrounded with a chain and 8 cannons, each of which weighed 3000 kilos. During the war of 1877—78 the Varna garrison surrendered



Varna. Steps leading to the Bathing Beach

without firing a shot; for the outcome of the campaign had already been decided elsewhere. In accordance with the terms of the San Stefano peace treaty the fortress walls were razed.

After the liberation Varna was transformed in a few years from a Turkish fortress to a pleasant modern town and a business centre of the first order. A modern harbour was constructed by the Chief Engineer of Marseilles port, M. Guerard, during 1895 — 1906. A giant statue of Tzar Ferdinand stands at the entrance to the port. The building of the Sofia — Varna railway with its many branches to towns on the Danube, and of the transbalkan railway, gave a great impulse to the export and import trade of Varna. Its population was doubled in 25 years.

A brilliant future was opening up for the town, but by the last peace treaty the richest part of its hinterland, the Dobrudja was taken from it. Disappointed in its greatest hopes, Varna is compelled to compensate this loss by the development of industry and by becoming the best bathing resort on the Western coast of the Black Sea. The town fathers are making every effort to accord comfort and convenience



Varna — Bathing Scene

to visitors. There is a modern casino in the gardens above the baths, from which the view loses itself in the vast distance of the blue waters of the sea. The baths are built in a modern way rarely met elsewhere, with elegant cabins, warm water installation, with a wonderful sunny beach of fine sand, steeped in iodine, on which the soft murmuring sea waves play. In the park running along the coast there are pleasant walks and good views over the sea from the cliffs. Varna is called not without reason the Queen of the Black Sea.

It possesses geographical advantages and climatic conditions which render it the most delightful sea side place of the Balkan Peninsula. The town has beautiful tree — shaded boulevards, several well kept parks, good shops, comfortable hotels, a theatre and most agreeable surroundings for a background.

In the North there is the St. Constantine promontory with a monastery of the same name. Many villas nestling among restful vegetation have been built, facing the sea, on this spot. Nearer, between Varna and St. Constantine stands amidst beautiful foliage the Royal Palace of Euxinograde — the gra-



Varna — General View of the Bathing Cabins

ceful Sandrovo of Alexander I of Battenburg. It was beautified by King Ferdinand, who surrounded it with a marvellous park containing rich flora from the Black and Mediterranean Seas. Above the pretty harbour there is a terrace whence the view extends Eastwards over the sea with, in the distance, cape Kuliakra and Baltchik and Kavarna and the village of Kestritch, the ancient port of the Venetians, lower down.

Near fort Tchatal Tash is Aladja Monastery, hewn from the rocks, in two stories, which dates from the first centuries of Christianity. Wall paintings of later periods can be seen in the church.

South of Varna is Galata point with a picturesque village perched like an eagle's nest upon its precipitous cliffs. In the bay near the Quarantine the fortified trench of Asparuch begins. Further along lake Gebedje is the hydroplane port, Peynerdjik; then Djunavar-Tepe (Hill of the Genoese) with the ruins of its ancient basilica. The form of the church can be traced from the foundations; transverse nave of the same width as the central nave, with the second transept as a narthex (the baptistery nave and atrium). The apse of the church is hidden by



Varna — The Beach

a wall. Along the Northern wall of the central nave there are laid out in a line several large stoneware vases, for filling with corn, water and oil and other provisions in times of war or during epidemics. Judging by the Syrian style of the church, it must date from the 5th to 6th cent. The floor is of mosaics, and fragments of the altar and of the balustrades are of marble. In the place where the altar stood a small sepulchre, at the bottom of which was found a small sarcophagus of alabaster, has been discovered, containing a second silver sarcophagus in which a massive golden shrine decorated with red garnets was found. The shrine contains relics. It is now in the Varna Museum. Near the Sea-Garden is found the Aquarium, created by King Ferdinand and enriched by his care.

The Varna Archeological Museum, in the town, is second in importance to that of Sofia. It is in the buildings of the girls' college. Antiquities and works of art of the various civilisations which left their traces on the Bulgarian littoral of the Black Sea, Thracian, Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Bulgarian and Turk, can be seen there as well as pre-historic objects. In

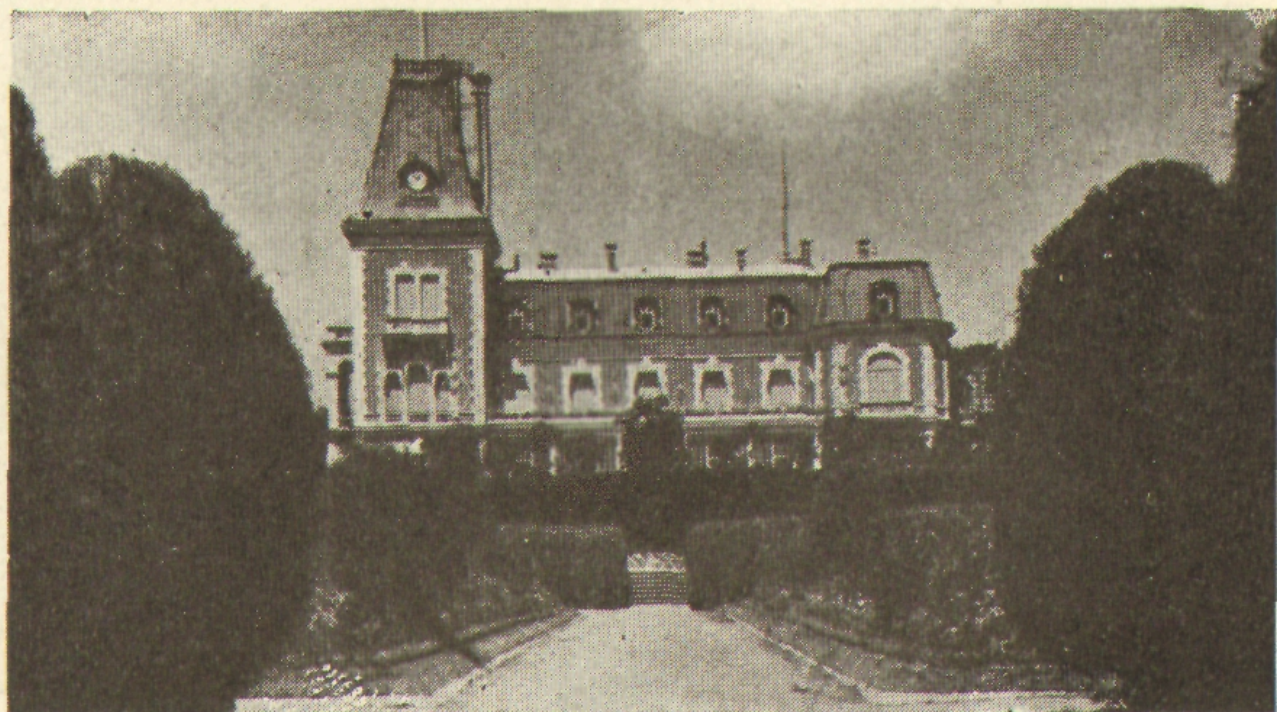


Varna — On the Beach

several places in the town the ruins of fortifications built by Justinian II (6th cent.) can be seen. The churches, mosques, wells and old houses are all worth visiting.

Owing to the numerous advantages which Varna enjoys, it now draws every summer the best Bulgarian society as well as an increasing number of foreigners. The comparatively low cost of living, plentiful accommodation, abundance of fruit, grapes and fresh vegetables of all kinds, as well as amusements, and pleasant walks and excursions in the neighbourhood, on land or by sea, render a sojourn in summer very pleasant for guests even of the most exacting tastes.

Giosiken. — A few hours by boat or motor car in the direction of Cape Emine, the promontory where the Balkans enter the Black Sea, is Guisiken village, which is endowed with a pretty beach and is surrounded by large oak and beech forests. Enjoying simultaneously a semi-maritime and semi-mountainous climate, beautiful surroundings, walks in the wooded mountains and the advantages of the sea and the



Varna — Royal Palace of Euxinograd

beach, it already attracts many visitors. The ruins of a large Roman temple, consecrated to Jupiter are interesting to see.

VARNA—RUSSE (Rustchuk)

The train makes the journey from Varna to Russe on the Danube in 5 hours. The journey as far as Kaspitchan has already been described. The train runs through cultivated fields from here to the Danube.

Razgrade. — The only town between Varna and Russe near which the railway passes; it lies $3\frac{1}{2}$ klm. from the station. The town is a centre for the grain trade of the Deli-Orman region, which extends as far as the Bulgaro-Roumanian frontier. There are mosques at Razgrade, one of which was erected in 1515 — Ibrahim Pasha Djami. The town Museum possesses numerous Roman antiquities, including several slabs in relief representing mythological subjects.

Tumulus of Momdjilar. — The Momdjilar village is in the neighbourhood of Razgrade. Near it rises a tumulus of the same name of the 5-th cent. B. C. This funeral pile, 13 m. high, has a perimeter of 60 m. There are smaller tumuli 2 m. high around it.



St. Constantine — The Beach

Tumuli. — There are numerous tumuli in Bulgaria. In Northern Bulgaria they are to be found especially between the Ogosta river and the Black Sea, and in Southern Bulgaria to the East of Sredna Gora of Ihtiman; but especially in the Thracian plain. These tumuli are of three kinds: old dwellings, funeral piles and monuments.

The first are more level and have the form of flattened cones. They are found in Northern Bulgaria in the neighbourhood of Russe, Tirnovο and Shumen; and in Southern Bulgaria from T.-Pazardjik to the Black Sea. They are usually 4—12 m. high with diameters of 60—180 m. Fragments of earthenware utensils, flints, bones of animals etc. are often found in these tumuli. Excavations undertaken have shown that they were fortified dwellings of a tribe which came to the Balkan Peninsula from Russia about 2500 years B. C. They disappeared towards 1900 B. C. Objects of clay, stone and brass of these periods have been found inside the tumuli, and thatched huts plastered with burnt clay.



St. Constantine — The Hote

The two other kinds of tumuli are not distinguished by their form. They are much more numerous and of various dimensions, from 0.2 m. to 18 m. high and from 8 to 100 m. diameter. Sometimes they are single, and some-

times in groups. The single ones were built as sepulchres by the peoples who lived here from the 8 th cent. B. C. to the 15 th cent. A. D. Besides human bones there were found in them different brass, gold and silver ornaments, as well as statuettes and torchholders. The others, the monuments, were erected either to commemorate an event or a person.

Excavations made during recent years in the dwelling and funeral tumuli have revealed objects of great interest in connection with the history of the peoples who followed each other during many centuries in the Balkan Peninsula.

RUSSE—VIDIN—THE BULGARIAN SHORE OF THE DANUBE

Russe (Rustchuk). — On the Danube, two hours by train from Razgrade. The town stands on the right bank of the river which is much higher than the left or Roumanian bank, on which Giurgevo (in Roumanian Giurgiu) stands. Russe is one of the first towns in Bulgaria. East and West along the Danube there are interesting walks. There are many kitchen gardens in the North. In the centre of the town is a Municipal park. Russe was for a long time one of the most important business towns in Bulgaria. Since the last wars it lost a part of its hinterland in the East, which was ceded to Roumania. The town is now being

turned into an industrial one, and there are already numerous factories around it.

Russe is also the largest Bulgarian port on the Danube; by which it is connected direct with Central Europe. Express boats run twice a week between

Russe and Vienna. On the other hand, the ferry boats across the river effect direct communication between Sofia — Bucarest — Warsaw, and Varna — Bucarest — Warsaw.



Aladja Monastery near Varna

Russe appears rather late in history as an important town. It was, however, under the Roman domination the base for their fleet on the lower Danube. Its first name — Prista or Priska — preserves the memory of the anchorage of 60 boats — Sexaginta Prista — which lay under the protection of a fortress, where the 5th cohort of the 1st Legion Italica, with a cavalry squadron, was garrisoned. Destroyed at the time of the invasions by the barbarians, the town was rebuilt during the First Bulgarian Kingdom 25 km. further along the left bank of the river Lom, on the site of the stronghold of Tcherven.

After the destruction of Tcherven in the 16th cent., the town was again built on the original site, under the name of Russe or Rustchuk, because of the very advantageous economic and military position on the Danube, connecting Constantinople with Wallachia and Transylvania, rich provinces on the other side of the river. According to Bishop Bogdan Bacshish, in 1640 Russe had a fortress flanked with five towers armed with cannon. From 1596 to 1755 thanks to the Ragusians, who had founded a trading colony there,



Russe — The Harbour

Russe became one of the first business towns on the Danube and the chief market for the exchange of goods between the Orient and the Occident, and between the Balkan Peninsula and Wallachia.

Being surrounded, by the Turks, with a double wall, and protected by strong towers supplied with powerful artillery, Russe was able to resist the Russian troops under field-marshal Kamensky in 1810 for a long time. The following year the old General Kutusoff razed the Turkish fortress of Russe and destroyed the Turkish camp at Giurgevo on the other side of the river.

The great Turkish reformer, Governor of Northern Bulgaria, Midhat Pasha, who was a native of a neighbouring village, established his head quarters at Rousse in 1864. The town thereby became the governing centre for Northern Bulgaria and part of Serbia. Russe quickly began to make big strides in material prosperity. During the Russo-Turkish war in 1876 — 77 the town was so well fortified that Reuf Pasha only surrendered it after the conclusion of hostilities. At the time of the liberation Russe with its 26.000 inha-



Russe — The Railway Station

bitants was the largest town in Bulgaria, as Sofia had only 20.867. Its population to-day is approximately 50.000. With its monuments, fine hotels, promenades, its harbour and good connections with Central Europe, and with its growing industry, Russe to-day is quite an interesting modern town.

Svishtov. — The first town West of Russe on the Danube is Svishtov (Sistovo), which is built in the form of an amphitheatre on the slopes of a hill rising on the right bank of the river. The situation is very picturesque. On the opposite bank is the Roumanian town Zimnicea. A little further along the river is the place where the Russian army crossed the Danube in 1877. This memorable event is marked by two white obelisks, erected at a place called Tzareva Livada, the King's Meadow. In 1916, during the Great War, the Bulgarian and German armies entered Roumania at this same place.

For a long time, up to the first years of the 20-th cent., Svishtov was a very important commercial centre. This was perhaps due to the Danube, being



A Street in Russe

easily crossed here. The town was burned in 1810 during the Russo-Turkish war, and was rebuilt at a later date. One can see houses in Bulgarian style there with large open verandas; indications of the prosperity which the inhabitants enjoyed until the beginning of the 20-th cent. In the neighbourhood there are ruins of the Roman town Novae, which served as the camp of one of the Legions.

At the present day the town has lost much of its commercial importance in spite of the railway which connects it, at Levsky, to the main line. The port of Svishtov is still used for exporting cereals. The house of the great Bulgarian humorist, Aleko Konstantinoff, which is in this town, has been turned into a Museum.

Belene. — A large village, facing an island formed by the Danube and connected to Svishtov by the Svishtov-Bender branch line. There is an anchorage for local river traffic near the village. The Belene and Beskante lakes which run inland from near the village, are rich in fish.

Nicopol. — The town of Nicopol (Nicopolis) West of Belena, rises on the hill on the right bank of the Danube, near



Ruse — The Town Garden with the Theatre in background

the mouth of the Ossam river. It was founded in 629 by Emperor Heraclius, probably after the disappearance of Nicopolis ad Istrum. There are numerous ruins round about. It was between this town and Nicopolis ad Istrum that Emperor Trajan defeated the Dacians. In this neighbourhood Bajazit I defeated the Hungarians, who were allied to the Wallachians under the Despot Mircho, in 1396.

Nicopol was one of the largest towns on the Danube during the latter period of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom and in the beginning of the Turkish rule. A first class fortified town, it served as a defence against the countries North of the Danube. Its fortress still existed during the Russo-Turkish war 1876 — 77, and the ruins of the defences still stand. There is a little church of the 13-th cent. in the town. The importance of the port has considerably decreased since the construction of the Plevna — Somovit railway. Facing Nicopol on the Roumanian bank is the town Turnu-Mugurelli, the last station of the Roumanian railway line.

Somovit. — A large village at the head of the railway Somovit—Plevna, standing on the Vit river. It has become

a fairly active port since the construction of the railway. The hills surrounding the village make a very picturesque situation.

Gigen.—Low lying land, which has often been submerged, stretches to a considerable distance a little higher up the river along the Bulgarian bank. A great dam along the river was finished in 1930 — enabling this fertile land, which stretches over an area of several square kilometres, to be cultivated. The construction of the dam took several years and is a great piece of engineering. The village of Gigen is in the Western part of this low plain not far from the Danube.

Under the Roman rule the town of Oescus stood here. It was transformed by Trajan from a fortified camp into, an mighty town on the Danube, when his victories enabled him to drive the Dacians far back from the shores of the river. There are some interesting ruins, and several statues: of a notable citizen, of the god Mitra and of the goddess Demetra. The folds of the latter's robes are well done; she holds a torch in one hand and an ear of wheat—the symbol of fruitfulness — in the other. These statues are now in the Sofia National Museum. The Roman road which led from Constantinople to Philipopolis, the Balkans (Trajan Pass), Melta (Lovetch), Sorgosia (Pleven) and Oescus ended here. At this place, between Gigen (Oescus) on the Bulgarian bank and Tchilei on the Roumanian, at the mouth of the Olt river, a bridge over the Danube was built by Constantine the Great. The piles remaining from this bridge could still be seen near the Roumanian shore not so long ago. The Roman road (*via militaris lapidea*) went over this bridge to Dacia. The building of it must have taken place in 330 A. D., during the wars with the Goths.

The town Korabia, head of the Roumanian railway line, faces Gigen.

The Iskar (Oescus) river flows into the Danube a little further up beyond Gigen.

Orehovo. — The little town of Orehovo is on the heights of the right bank of the Danube, which rises steeply here. It is connected by a narrow gauge railway



Evening on the Danube

with the central line at Tcherven Breg. The port of Orehovo is an outlet for the products of the villages of the Vratza Department, which is rich in cereals and grapes. There are ruins of numerous Roman castles along the Danube in the neighbourhood of Orehovo. The town is picturesquely situated. Upstream, a few kilometres from Orehovo, the Ogosta river flows into the Danube.

Kozlodui. — The right bank of the Danube is high here as on the greater part of its course, much higher than the left. The village of Kozlodui stands between the mouths of the Ogosta and the Tzibritza rivers and seems to be perched on the steep bank overhanging the river. It became famous through the disembarkment here in 1876 of the troop of Bulgarian revolutionists led by the poet Christo Boteff. Disguised as gardeners they embarked on the Austrian boat Radetzky at Zimnicea, and during the voyage they donned the uniform of revolutionists, and armed themselves; then their leader Christo Boteff compelled the captain to stop at this place. A cross commemorates this historical event.

Tzibar. — The village is on the Tzibritza river, the Cebrus of the Romans, which flows into the Danube here. The bank here is exceptionally low and wooded. A



Rasgrade — The Clock Tower

little beyond Tzibri-tza, upstream, the shore again gets high and is covered with vineyards.

Lom. — The town of Lom (Lom Palanka) lies on the Eastern slope of a small hill and stretches along it from the Danube southwards. It is surrounded by vineyards and fields. In the time of the Romans it was a Roman camp which, under Trajan, became an important fortified town called Almus. The ruins of the Roman camp and of the Turkish fortress can be seen

round about the town. During the Turkish rule it was a small town, but since the liberation of Bulgaria it has become an important commercial town, especially after the construction of the Sofia—Vratza—Lom railway. It is the first port on the Danube for imports. The greater part of the exchange of products between Northern Bulgaria and Central Europe is made through it. Lom is also the Danube port for Sofia.

Artchar. — A village on the banks of the Artchar river, which flows into the Danube between Lom and Vidin. It is an anchorage for coasting boats and also serves for the export of cereals. Ratiaria, a large Roman town, whose ruins can still be seen, stood near the village. The terrace which rises here near the mouth of the Artchar river was chosen by the Romans on their arrival as head-quarters for the Legions, and near it a place was made the base for their Moesian

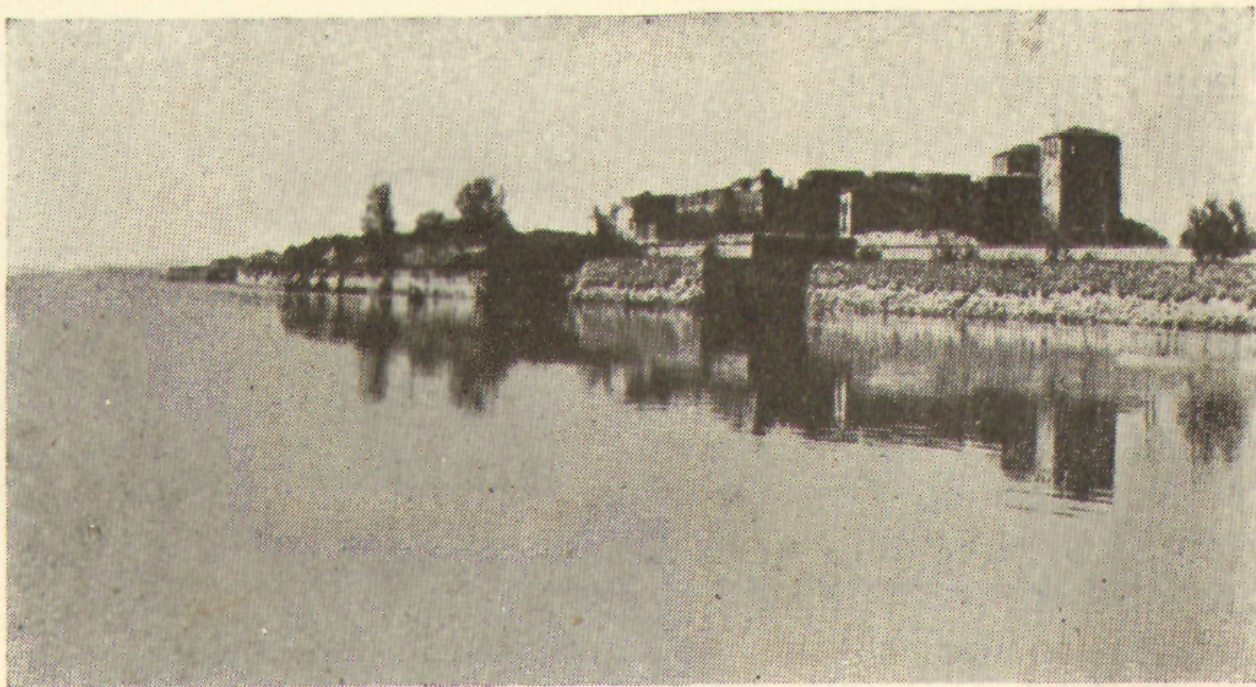
fleet on the Danube, When Emperor Trajan took the Legions away from here he proclaimed the town to be a Roman city, and honored it with his name Ulpia. In the 3rd cent. Emperor Aurelian again brought the Legions here and promoted Ratiaria to be the principal town of the Dacia Ripensis province, which he founded after losing Dacia. Under the Roman rule the town was also a centre for the manufacture of arms for the troops. At the same time the goldwork-



Razgrade — A Mosque

ing industry developed here; gold being brought by merchants from Transylvania and Dalmatia. An example of the work is a set of ornaments for a young girl, found in a completely preserved stone tomb. Ratiaria was also an important commercial centre and became very prosperous. Fine arts and literature flourished here. There was a bridge over the Artchar river at the place where the military harbour was, over which went the road leading out of the town. There exists among the ruins the town's underground canal near the mouth of the Artchar river, as well as the aqueduct which brought water to the town from a distance of several kilometres. Near Drajenitza village the ruins of the watch-tower can still be seen at the place where two arms of the aqueduct met.

Vidin. — The voyage to Vidin, like that along the whole of the Danube, is extremely pleasant. The traveller contemplates the two banks, the higher Bulgarian, covered



Vidin — The Castle (The Towers of Baba Vida)

with vineyards and fields, and the lower Roumanian with marshes made by the river. The huge Roumanian plain, very flat, and rich in grain growing land, stretches behind the marshes.

The last Bulgarian town on the Danube in the West is Vidin. It stands on a small eminence in the form of an island made by the Danube and the marshes. On the highest North-Western part of the island, on the Danube, is a castle, and the town extends on the Southern part. Vidin has a very important strategic position. That is why it was always a first class fortified town. The moats which surrounded the town could be easily filled with water from the Danube or from the Topolovitza river, to prevent an enemy from approaching the city walls.

The castle standing North West of the town, on the bank of the Danube, is the best preserved mediaeval castle in Bulgaria. It stands on the site or rather, on the foundation of the ancient Roman fortress Bononia, which reminded veterans of the Roman Legions of their country. Later on, from the 10-th to the 14-th cent., it was known under the Bulgarian name Bdin, from which the present name of the town is derived. The castle is of great importance in Bulgarian, Byzantine and Hungarian history. The popu-



Vidin. Burial place of Pazvantoglou

lation calls it „Babini Vidini Kuli“, the Towers of Grandmother Vida. In this way the people have created a mythical being from Bdin or Vidin, who is supposed to have founded the castle.

The latter is in the form of a quadrilateral, irregular in the South. It is a massive building with a little courtyard in the centre. The lower parts of the walls are made with large stones on which irregular layers of stone and brick are put. The castle is surrounded by a deep moat, counterscarped. The moat and masonry were constructed in 1689, during the occupation under the Austrian General Veterani. The castle has four towers, two on the Western side, one on the Northern side and one on the Eastern side. The windows are of the Byzantine and Osman styles. There are ruins of old churches near the castle. Inside is a church with two chapels: on the right the St. Nicholas chapel, on the left the St. Panteleimon. The wall paintings were, according to an

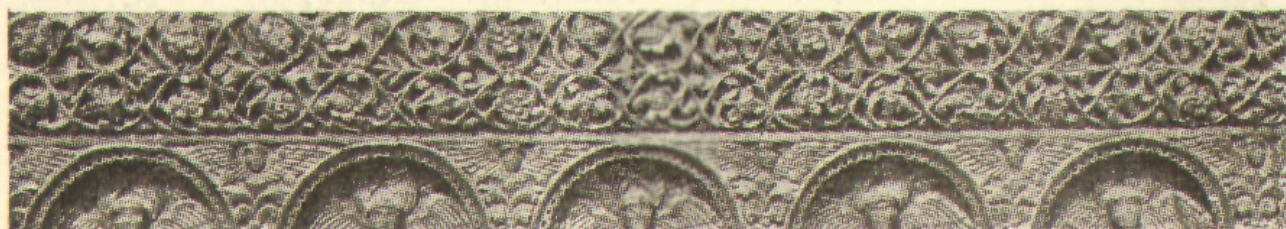
inscription found there, renovated in 1633. The St. Petka chapel in the infirmary is of the same type as the Sofia and Tirnovo churches. It was built between the years 1633 and 1654.

Prior to the Turkish domination in the 14-th cent. Vidin was the capital of one of the last Bulgarian Kings, Ivan Stratzimir. At the end of the 18-th cent., Osman Pazvantoglou, chief of the central Turkish power, proclaimed himself independant Pasha and chose for his capital the fortified town Vidin, where he lived up to his death in 1807. He was buried in one of the mosques of the town in a richly decorated sarcophagus, above which a green pillar with a conical top stands. There are also several Turkish monuments, fountains etc. in the town.

Vidin is now a modern town with a large port and hotels standing on a rising above it. The town is connected with Sofia by railway. The railway terminous Calafat faces Vidin on the Roumanian bank. The regular boat service between Vidin and Calafat makes direct railway connection between Sofia and Budapest possible.

Fruit and grapes are cheap and abundant in Vidin. Interesting ceramic objects are manufactured here. Fresh water fish, especially the cod which gives black caviar, are caught in this neighbourhood. The soil around Vidin is fertile.

Kula. — This little agricultural town stands on the highway, leading from Vidin through the Stara Planina pass, Vrashka Tchuka, to Zaitchar in Yougoslavia.



Carved wooden Frieze from Arbanassi, (17-th cent.)



On the way to Belogradchik

VIDIN—THE WESTERN BALKAN—SOFIA

Belogradchik. — A little town on the Vidin—Sofia railway about 10 klm. from Oreshetz station. It stands on an eminence and is dominated by a mediaeval fortress whose embrasured walls can still be seen. There is a beautiful view over forests and fields from the town, and particularly from the fortress. The Belogradchik rocks, which are in the form of thrones, behind the town, are well known, and make a wonderful natural embellishment. They are moulded in red sand, formed of conglomerates and are so arranged that the sight of them compels the admiration of visitors who by lucky chance come this way.

There is another marvel of nature — the Magura grotto, about 10 klm. from the town, near Rabisha village. It is one of the largest in Bulgaria, with enormous cupolas, numerous recesses and colonnades, and many stalactites and stalagmites. Inside there are numerous primitive drawings which lead one to suppose that the grotto is very old.



„Kalugerite“ — The Monks — Marvellous rocks near Belogradtchik

There is still another grotto Merizlivna, between Oreshetz and Belogradtchik. Bones and antique objects have been found there. The highway leading through the St. Nikolas Pass (1371 m.) connects Belogradtchik via the Stara Planina, with Pirot in Yougoslavia.

Brussartzi. — The railway from Vidin joins the Lom—Sofia line at Brussartzi.

Boitchinovtzi. — At the Boitchinovtzi station, which is in the valley of the Ogosta river, the Boitchinovtzi—Ferdinand — Berkovitza railway branches off.

Ferdinand. (Kutlovitza). — Near the Ogosta river at the entrance into the Balkans. In the time of the Romans it was a neat little town called Montanensia. One can still see the ruins of the Roman castle on the terrace — an eminence West of the town. An inscription (now in the National Museum, Sofia) dating 155 A. D., which contains a list of the Montenensia garrison, was found here. Bas-reliefs and other inscriptions,



Rocks in the neighbourhood of Belogradchik

have been found among the ruins. Ferdinand is to day a small agricultural town.

Tchiprovtsi. — A large village to the North-West of Ferdinand, in the Stara-Planina Mountains, near the source of the Ogosta river. Up to the end of the 17-th cent. it was a little town inhabited by Saxons, who had become Bulgarian but were called „Latins“ by the neighbouring population, as they were catholics. They had come here long previously to exploit silver, lead and copper mines, whose half open pits can still be seen in the Rupski Dol valley, 5 klm. from the village. The little town which stood here in the 17 th cent. was the seat of the catholic bishop of Sofia. The missionaries who visited this town, got into touch with the last of the Bulgarian Bogomils and succeeded in converting them to catholicism. Tchiporovtzi is to day the centre of a carpet industry and its carpets are known in the country under the name of Tchiporovetz or Tchiprovtsi carpets.

Berkovitza. — A small town at the terminus of the railway, in a valley under the Balkan mountains, which take a Northern direction here and extend as far as the Danube. Berkovitza stands in front of the Petrohan



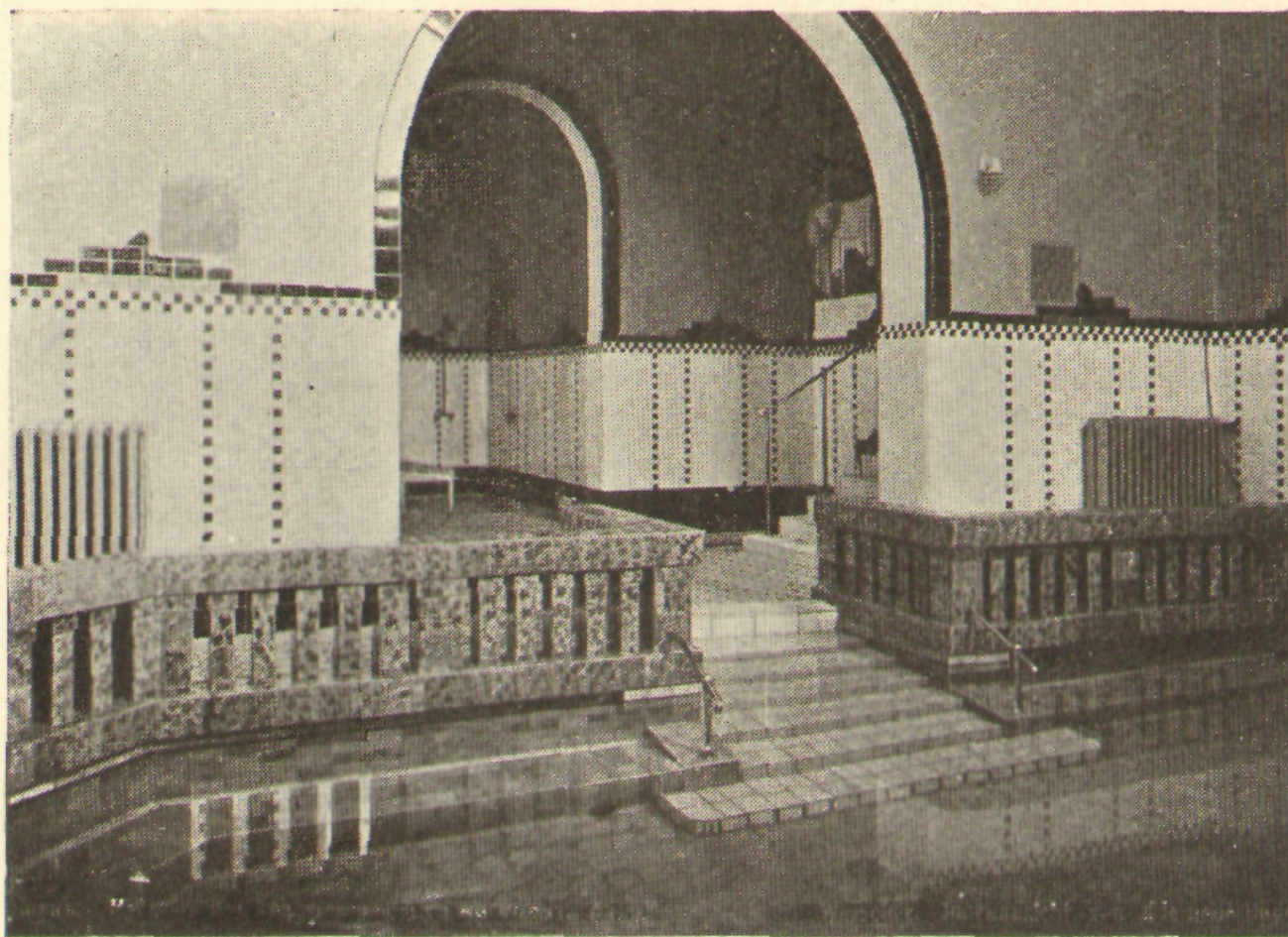
Varshetz — The Baths and the Park

Pass (1444 m.) through which the town is connected with Sofia (78 klm.) by a highway. It passes between the summits Kom (2010 m.) over Berkovitza, and Todorini Kukli (Todora's Dolls) (1790 m.) to the East of the pass. This route offers many attractive excursions to the traveller.

Above the town are the remains of a mediaeval fortress. In the wooded Balkan mountains are some wonderful places for excursions amidst beautiful scenery. The ascent of the Kom summit, which can be seen even from Sofia, may be made from here. Berkovitza has become a much frequented summer resort.

In former times it was noted for its raspberry wines. The best raspberry syrups are now made here, this fruit growing plentifully in the neighbourhood.

Varshetz. — The mineral baths, situated on the Botunia stream, in a beautiful park, are 18 klm. from Berkovitza under the slopes of the Stara Planina, and 32 klm. from Vratza. There are wonderful places for excursions in the neighbourhood. The climate is mild



Varshetz — The Baths

and very pleasant. This watering place is connected by motor car service with the Vratza railway station on the Sofia—Lom railway, and with Vidin, 23 klm. from Varshetz. The baths are fitted up similarly to those of Bankia and have modern equipment. There are two basins with different temperature (36.1° and 31° C.). In its chemical composition the water is slightly mineral, with a predominance of sulphate of soda and bicarbonate of soda. Its radio activity is 15^{10-10} Curies. Its curative properties resemble the Bankia water, but with a slightly stronger sedative action for pains and nervous complaints.

There are numerous hotels, restaurants, boarding houses, cafes and bars near and about the baths. Varshetz being both a watering place and a summer resort, is much frequented. The cost of living is low and a very pleasant season can be spent here.

Vratza. — A town on the railway going to Sofia, lying on the slopes of the Balkans; one of the largest northern sub-Balkan towns. The fertile plain covered with vineyards and fields begins on the East of the town and



A picturesque spot near Vratza

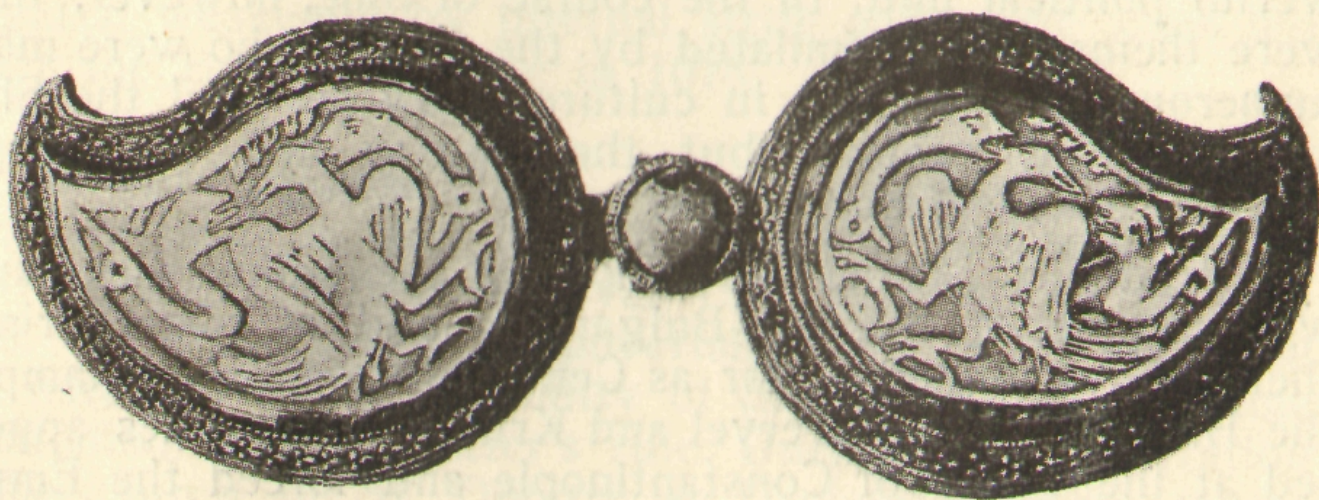
Vratza is therefore a semi-agricultural as well as semi-industrial town. The culture of silk worms is carried on here. There are silk spinning mills and factories in the town.

On one of the squares is a monument to the Bulgarian revolutionary poet Christo Boteff, who fell at the head of his troop in 1876 in a fight for the liberty of his country, on the Volat (the Ox) summit, which stands above the town. After his death his companions were dispersed by the numerous Turkish troops. Every year in June students from the Bulgarian universities make a pilgrimage to this place in memory of the event and ascend the Volat summit, where the great revolutionary poet died, together with several of his companions, in a courageous fight for the liberty of his countrymen.

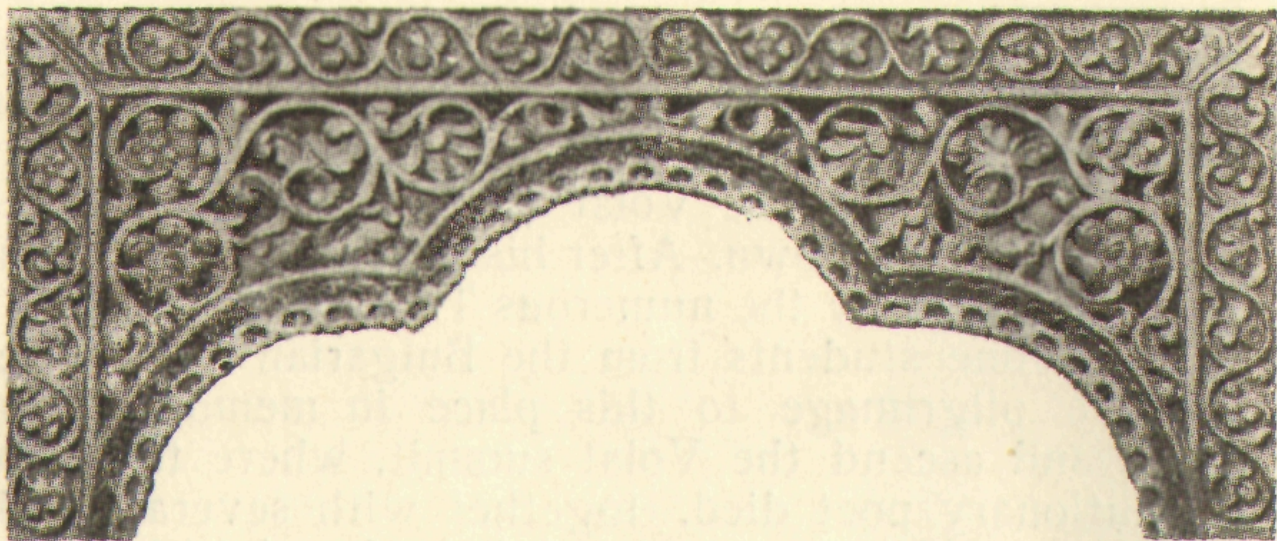
Vratza was made famous in the beginning of the 19 th cent. at a time of internal disturbances in the Ottoman Empire, by Bishop Sophroni, one of the best writers of the Bulgarian revival.

There is an interesting grotto called Ledenikat (the Glacier), 8 klm. from Vratza in the mountains. The grotto is divided inside into three galleries, two of which, the central and the back one, are covered by very pretty stalactites and stalagmites which look like real candelabra. Some of them reach to the ground and produce the effect of magnificent pillars. The third gallery is in the form of a basin and surrounds a pool.

The next railway station to Vratza towards Sofia is Mezdra, where the line coming from the Danube, Vidin, or Lom, joins the central Varna—Sofia line, which runs through the Iskar pass into the smiling Sofia plain, connecting the capital of Bulgaria with the Danube, and with the Black Sea at Varna.



Bulgarian Girdle-Clasps



Old Wood Carving from Arbanassi

A SHORT REVIEW OF THE HISTORY, ECONOMICS AND INTELLECTUAL LIFE OF BULGARIA

HISTORY

First Kingdom (679—1018) — The Bulgarians, who are of Asiatic origin and came from the region of the Azov Sea, succeeded in establishing themselves in Moesia (present Northern Bulgaria) in the second half of the 7th cent., after long struggles with the Byzantines. They found many Slav tribes here. As they were good organisers and brave soldiers and possessed a strong instinct for state administration, they were able to combine them in one powerful political unit. In the course of time, however, they were themselves assimilated by the Slavs, who were more numerous and superior in culture. They adopted the Slav language and customs, but the country and the people took the name of Bulgarians.

Gradually almost the whole of the Balkan Peninsula was conquered by the Bulgarians and at some periods their rule extended as far as Central Europe. For example, the Bulgarian Khans Tervel and Krum several times appeared at the gates of Constantinople and forced the Emperors of Byzantium to ask for peace. The Khan Omortag, a

great builder and an excellent organiser, as well as a shrewd diplomat, and whose frontiers spread as far as the Frank Empire in the West, made it his task, after having assured himself of a lasting peace with Byzantium, to unify his State, assimilating the various Slav tribes.

In 866, after he had made a treaty with the Emperor of Byzantium, the Bulgarian Tzar Boris together with his troops and people accepted Christianity. His kingdom gradually received a Christian organization, through the creation of an ecclesiastical hierarchy in the country. After the death of St. Methody (885), brother of St. Cyril, who were together the creators of the Slav alphabet and the converters of Moravia, their pupils were driven out of that region and were called to Bulgaria by Tzar Boris. With their help he introduced Slav liturgical books in Bulgaria and laid the foundation of Slav culture by establishing schools and monasteries which later on, under his son Tzar Simeon, became real centres of education. Tzar Simeon, an eminent soldier and a very cultured man, extended the borders of his State to the three seas which wash the Balkan Peninsula: the Black Sea, the Aegean Sea and the Adriatic Sea. At the same time, science and art developed under his influence and with his collaboration, reaching their zenith during his reign. His qualities of character, conquests and the progress of science and art brought him the title of Simeon the Great.

A brilliant culture flourished at this period in the magnificent palaces of Preslav, rivalling that of Byzantium.

In spite of the bravery of some of them, the successors of Simeon the Great proved to be less able to maintain the splendid inheritance which had been left to them. Bulgaria, weakened by internal strife and many wars, fell under the Byzantine yoke in 1018.

Second Kingdom. (1186—1393). — Although she made many attempts to free herself, Bulgaria remained under the rule of Byzantium for over 100 years, up to the year 1186. The population, impoverished by heavy taxation and harassed by the brutality of the Byzantines, became dissatisfied with the latter's rule. During the consecration of the church of St. Dimitri at Tirnovo in 1186, where were assembled the whole of the clergy, the people and

the boyars of Northern Bulgaria, Archbishop Basil placed the golden crown on the head of one of the nobles, Ivan Assen, and proclaimed him Tzar of the Bulgarians and the Wallachians. Some time before this Ivan Assen and his brother Peter had been badly treated, when paying tribute to the Emperor, and their request to lighten the amount had been rejected. As a result of the crowning of Ivan Assen I a great part of the Bulgarian people rose against the Byzantines. The Bulgarian troops were defeated in the first conflicts, but were afterwards successful, thanks to the bravery and ability of their leaders, in freeing Bulgaria once more.

When Kaloyan, younger brother to Ivan Assen and Peter, came into power he extended the borders of his Kingdom and consolidated the new State. But it was particularly King Iv n Assen II who contributed to the great development of the Bulgarian Kingdom, whose borders he extented from the Black Sea to the Sava river, and from the Adriatic to the Aegean Sea. At the same time he fortified and improved Tirnovo, his capital; numerous palaces, churches and monasteries were constructed in the town and neighbourhood. It became an important intellectual centre and from it religious Slav literature was distributed by the Bulgarians as far as Serbia and Russia.

The majority of Ivan Assen II, ssuccessors were not so capable as he; they could not preserve the unity of the Kingdom.

The struggles and quarrels between the Balkan Christian Princes made an opening for the Turks. When the latter set foot in the Balkans, Bulgaria was divided into several Kingdoms, whose rulers did not always agree with each other. This facilitated the Turkish conquest of the Balkans and Bulgaria. After a three months siege they succeeded in taking Tirnovo, the capital. They set fire to the beautiful palaces of Trapesitza and Tzarevetz, destroyed numerous churches, and killed the greater part of the notables.

Patriarch Euthym, a scholar and the soul of the opposition, was exiled to Macedonia, where he died. In this way Bulgaria for a period of nearly five centuries again fell under a double yoke; politically under the Turkish rule

and in religion under the jurisdiction of the Phanar. A great number of the population fled into the mountains away from the exactions of their new masters, and founded numerous villages there. From there was to appear later the star of political and religious liberty.

BULGARIA OF THE PRESENT DAY

At the beginning of the 19th cent., under the influence of the idea of liberty which was spread by the French revolution and brought nearer home by the Russo-Turkish wars, an intellectual movement gradually developed in Bulgaria and, supported by Bulgarians living abroad, soon became a struggle for independence. Its first efforts were directed towards religious liberty and the establishing of an autonomous national church, independent of the Patriarch of Constantinople. Petitions did not bring about any result, and the population, seeing that their claims for a national church were rejected, expelled the Greek Bishops, imposed on them by the Phanar, from many places. The Patriarch, however, persisted in his refusal and took strong measures, interning some of the leaders of the movement in Asia Minor. At last, the Porte disturbed by this agitation, established by a firman an independent Bulgarian Exarchate in 1870. The Bishop Antim of Vidin was the first to receive this title. In May 1872, on the anniversary of St. Cyril and Methodi, he proclaimed religious autonomy during mass. This being achieved, all efforts were concentrated on the struggle for political freedom. Every attempt at rising was ruthlessly repressed by the Turks. In April 1876 a more widely spread insurrection broke out. It was repressed with such cruelty that the conscience of the whole world was stirred. In the following year Russia declared war on Turkey, which ended with the San Stefano Treaty (3rd of March 1878) imposed on the Sultan by victorious Russia. By this treaty a Bulgarian Principality was created within the ethnographical frontiers of Bulgaria, extending from the Black Sea to the Albanian mountains and from the Danube to the Aegean Sea.

Under the influence of Western Powers, however, a Congress was soon convoked in Berlin (13th July 1878)

which destroyed the achievements of San Stefano. By the Treaty of Berlin, Bulgaria was divided into three parts: 1. Macedonia was returned to the Sultan, who promised to introduce reforms there; 2. Thrace under the name of Eastern Roumelia obtained an administrative autonomy under a Christian Governor appointed by the Porte; 3. a considerably decreased territory, comprising Northern and North-Western Bulgaria, was constituted into a politically autonomous Principality, but tributary to the Porte.

This state of things could not last for long. A bloodless revolution took place at Plovdiv in 1885, resulting in the union of the two Bulgarias, whilst Macedonia remained under the Turks. Because of this Serbia declared war on Bulgaria, but the latter was victorious.

This war however, owing to the opposition of Austria, brought no territorial modifications. The Bulgarian armies had to withdraw behind the frontiers which existed before the conflict. The reigning Prince Alexander Battenberg in spite of the victory of his armies was compelled to sacrifice his throne. A little while after his departure from Bulgaria, Prince Ferdinand of Coburg was elected Prince of Bulgaria and in October 1908 Bulgaria proclaimed its independence and rejected the sovereignty of the Sultan. Since that time the country has been constituted as an independent Kingdom. An astute diplomat and a cultivated man with a very delicate taste for art and letters, he exercised during his long reign a great influence on the development of Bulgaria. His name is bound up with the most important events in the history of contemporary Bulgaria.

From the political point of view Bulgaria is a hereditary constitutional Monarchy. Its sovereign bears the title of Tzar (King). The present ruler is Tzar Boris III, born on January 30-th 1894, who ascended to the throne on October the 30-th, 1918. The Government consists of ministers who are responsible to the Sobranie (Parliament). Bulgaria has only one Chamber, which is re-elected every four years.

In the 53 years of her freedom Bulgaria has developed from a Turkish Province into a fully European State. Many schools have been established throughout the country, there is a good system of highways and

railways and several harbours on the Black Sea and the Danube. Science and art are making great progress and culture is rapidly spreading amongst an ever increasing portion of the population, penetrating even to the remotest villages.

The Bulgarian nation with its strong good sense, its steadiness in work and yearning for culture, in spite of the two unhappy wars which have seriously affected it, is working eagerly to recover from disaster and to seek intellectual and material progress.

INTELLECTUAL BULGARIA

After almost five centuries of Turkish rule Bulgaria, during the last 53 years, has enjoyed liberty. Throughout the long period of foreign domination it lost all connection with its past, when material and spiritual culture flourished.

Bulgaria appeared very late upon the scene as a free nation; her neighbours, owing to their geographical situation, had for many years already gained their freedom. Cut-off from progress in science and art by its ignorant rulers, deprived of almost all contact with the civilised world, Bulgaria, when she regained her political liberty, was confronted with a civilisation which had developed without her participation during five centuries.

After her emancipation Bulgaria wished to make up for lost time, and tried in half a century to overtake other European countries. The inhabitants from the richest to the poorest, eager to progress, applied themselves with great enthusiasm to the study of science and art.

Time, however, especially in this sphere of human activity, cannot, without affecting work done, be forced by rushing through stages. This explains why numerous Bulgarian works, produced during the last 50 years, in the various spheres of spiritual and material activity, are sometimes imperfect in either form or essence. But, on the other hand, if one examines more closely what has been accomplished in all branches of human activity during this comparatively short period, one must agree that the Bulgarian people have really made an enormous effort, attaining surprising results.

The progress achieved up to the present is a guarantee for the future, and is a proof of the vitality of the people which will ensure their national existence and cooperation with the rest of the world in human progress.

We enumerate with a short description the principal institutions, in order that visitors to Bulgaria may study them if they wish, besides enjoying the natural beauty of the country, staying at its health resorts and sea side places and seeing the various towns and cities.

Schools. — In the year 1879/80, the first after the emancipation, there were 1936 primary schools in Bulgaria. In 1928/29 their number reached 5418. In addition, during this same period 130 infant schools, 1385 high schools, 103 secondary schools, 26 special schools, 254 primary and secondary technical schools, 1472 private schools, 2 teachers colleges, 2 universities, 1 military school, 1 musical academy, 1 academy of fine arts, 1 commercial high-school and 1 cooperative high-school have been founded.

In 1880 only 2.1% of the whole population could read and write, whilst in 1926 their number increased to 47.86% and it has progressed still further since,

Libraries and Reading Rooms. — There were already several reading rooms in the country 15 to 20 years before the emancipation, and they were a real source of enlightenment and education. There are now two National Libraries in the country: that of Sofia (Rakovski Street 111) with some 179,500 volumes, 1090 of which are old Bulgarian manuscript, and that of Plovdiv with some 129,400 volumes. In addition to these libraries there is in almost every town and in many of the villages a library with reading rooms (582).

Museums and Science Collections. — 1. The National Archeological Museum in Sofia, Znepolska Street 3. This was established immediately after the liberation of Bulgaria at the same time as the National Library. Both were under one administration at that period. The Museum was separated from the Library in 1892. It is now housed in the Buyuk Djamia, an old building inte-

resting for its architecture. There are five sections in the Museum: pre-historical, possessing in 1927 2.222 objects; antique with 5.510 objects; mediaeval with 2.222 objects, numismatic with 43.705, and fine arts with 732.

2. — The National Ethnographical Museum, Sofia, 7 Parliament Square (Narodno Sobranie). It was founded in 1879 and has collections of national costumes, metal and weft ornaments, vessels and implements for house and field work, interiors of Bulgarian homes, objects of religious cult and popular medicine, etc. A special section for folk-songs has been arranged since 1926: text of the songs and popular musical instruments.

3. — The Royal Museum of Natural History, in the grounds of the Royal Palace, Sofia, Boulevard Tzar Osvo-boditel 3. Established in 1890, it is now the richest Museum of natural history in the Balkan Peninsula; its collections of animals, plants and minerals being both excellent and varied. The Museum contains about 150.000 exhibits.

4. — The Royal Botanical Garden, Sofia, Boulevard Ferdinand 3, with subsidiary gardens at Euxinograde near Varna, Tzarska Bistritza, Saragiol and Sitniakovo in the Rila Mountains, contain rich collections of plants from the Bulgarian mountains and valleys.

5. — The Royal Zoological Garden, Sofia, Boulevard Ferdinand. There is a very rich collection of animals from Bulgaria and other countries.

6. — The Royal Entomological Station, which possesses over 100.000 specimens of insects. Boulevard Evlogui Gueorguieff, Sofia.

7. — The Museum for Industry and Trade, Sofia, Rakovsky street.

8. — The Ivan Vasoff Museum, Sofia, Ivan Vasoff street, corner of Rakovsky street.

There are 23 towns and villages, in whose neighborhood excavations have been made or ruins and antiquities exist, where local Archeological Museums have been organised.

Academies and Scientific Institutes. — 1. The Bulgarian Academy of Science. Publishes numerous scientific works and also the following periodicals: 1. Review of the Bulgarian Academy of Science, 2. Magazine of the Bulgarian Academy of Science, 3. Chronicle of the Bulgarian Academy of Science, 4. Collection of Folk-lore and popular paintings.

From the numerous funds which it possesses, a great part of which is intended for the encouragement of art and science, the Academy distributes prizes every year for a certain number of interesting works.

2. — The Bulgarian Archeological Institute, Sofia, Rakovsky street 139. Publishes the News of the Institute and Archeological Library.

3. — The Macedonian Scientific Institute, Sofia, 16 Alexander I street. Has the following publications: Macedonian Review, Material for the History of the Macedonian Liberation Movement, and Macedonian Library.

Scientific, Literary and Social Associations. — 1. Association of the Academic-Economists, which publishes the quarterly review „Stopanska Missl“ (The Economic Thought).

2. — Association of Economics, which publishes The Review of the Association of Economics, appearing monthly.

3. — The Physical-Mathematical Association, which publishes the Review of the Physical Mathematical Association.

4. — The Union of Reading Rooms.

5. — Union of Bulgarian Authors.

6. — Associations of Bulgarian Painters and Sculptors.

7. — Union of Bulgarian Journalists.

8. — The Bulgarian Red Cross Society.

9. — Alliance Française.

10. — The Young Mens' Christian Association (Y.M.C.A.)

11. — The Bulgarian Archeological Society.

12. — The Hunters' Club.

13. — The Tourist Club.

14. — The Bulgarian National Sports Association.

15. — Union of Bulgarian Students for the League of Nations.

16. — The Bulgarian League for the defence of the Rights of Man and Citizen.

17. — Bulgarian Section of the international Union „Mark Twain“.

18. — Bulgarian Section of the P. E. N. International Club.

19. — The Bulgarian Scientific Institute for Agriculture and Economics.

20. — Society for the protection of children.

21. — Bulgarian Ethnographical Society.

22. — Union of Bulgarian Musicians.

23. — Bulgarian Section of the Peace Association and the League of Nations.

24. — Union of Bulgarian Women.

25. — The English Speaking League.

26. — Deutsch-Bulgarische Kultargesellschaft.

Theatres.

1. — National Theatre, Sofia.

2. — National Opera, Sofia.

3. — Cooperative Theatre, Sofia (Operettes).

4. — Theatre „A. Sladkaroff“, Sofia.

5. — Town Theatre, Rustchuk.

6. — Municipal Theatre, Plovdiv.

7. — Town Theatre, Pleven.

8. — Municipal Theatre, Varna.

9. — Department Theatre, Tirnovo.

In addition to the above mentioned theatres there are theatrical touring companies.

The Press. — On the eve of the liberation the Bulgarian Press was represented by two or three newspapers and as many reviews, which were published in Bucarest or Constantinople.

In 1926/27 120 reviews, dealing with science, art and social and political questions, and 205 newspapers, mostly daily papers, were already appearing. Publications on art, literature, science etc. reach the number of 2,500 books annually, of which an average of 3,000 copies each are printed.

Literature. — Bulgarian literature, as well as the history of, present day Bulgaria, is divided into three periods:

The period prior to the liberation of Bulgaria, the period following the liberation, and the present time. The particular character of each of these periods is reflected in its literature. The first period was revolutionary; writers fought with the gun as well as with the pen. The first and the best among them was Christo Boteff; deep, impetuous and fiery, he was unsurpassed either as a fighter against tyrants or as a poet. One of his predecessors was G. S. Rakovsky, who gave the impulse to the Bulgarian revolutionary movement and was the indefatigable promoter of the Bulgarian language, as was also Luben Karaveloff, the first Bulgarian narrator. Their contemporary, Petko R. Slaveikoff was less active as a revolutionist and more devoted to literature.

There were also a few other writers during the same period, but their works smothered by the works of the post liberation writers, were soon forgotten. One must, however, mention Vassil Drumeff, the creator of Bulgarian drama.

During the early period after the liberation the following names became prominent and still survive: Ivan Vasoff, Stoyan Mihailovsky, Constantine Velitchkoff, Mihailaki Gueorguieff, Aleko Constantinoff, T. G. Vlaikoff—Vesselin, Anton Strashimiroff, G. P. Stamatoff, Tzanko Tzerkovky, Stilian Tchilingiroff, Ivan Kiriloff etc. They are the representatives of the tempestuous time of deeds and ideas when the new Bulgarian State was organising itself. These writers contributed to the work of organisation by their efforts to build up citizenship. They form a group which may be called the group of the patriarchs of Bulgarian literature.

The generation of writers which immediately preceded the great War, seemed, theoretically speaking, in a way to constitute a school of ideas opposed to that of the former writers. But, as a matter of fact, they would not have appeared so rapidly on the scene without the latter. The work accomplished by the writers who preceded them had to be done in order that the æstheticism, in which they prided themselves in their works, should be understood. This new generation produced, however, the greatest number of talented writers. To them belong the poets: Pentcho

Slaveikoff, P. K, Yavoroff and later, Nicolay Lilieff, Cyril Christoff, Mara Beltcheva, T. Traianoff, Trifon Kuneff, Dora Gabe, Dimtcho Debelianoff, Ludmil Stoyanoff, N. V. Rakitin and Em. P. Dimitroff; as also the novelists and narrators: P. You. Todoroff, Elin Pelin, Yordan Yovkoff, Nicholay Rainoff, Guergui Raitcheff, St. L. Kostoff, K. Konstantinoff, D. Shishmanoff, Vl. Mussakoff, Dobri Nemiroff, Damian Kaloff, Aura etc. This pre-war generation represents the literature of the quieter times of peace, and their works therefore are fuller of idealism and contemplative elements.

The Great War, or rather the troubled and tempestuous years following the war, which were marked by political, social and economic changes, have also its writers. They are the youngest generation of writers; that is the present day writers. They are for the most part still not quite „arrived“. Swayed sometimes by the left and sometimes by the right, cleaving to their native land yet sometimes cosmopolitan, they are a generation seeking their definite orientation. It is a generation representing the times in which we live. The most important names of this restless period are the poets: El. Bagriana, Geo Mileff, Christo Yassenoff, J. Stubel, Chr. Smirnensky, A. Daltcheff, Iv. H. Christoff, I. Mirtcheff, M. Mineva, Assen Raszvetnikoff, N. Furnadjieff, and the writers of prose, novelists and narrators: Fani Popova-Mutafova, Vladimir Polianoff, K. N. Petkanoff, A. Karaliitcheff, Ratcho Stoyanoff, Tchavdar Mutafoff.

Painting. — The Renaissance has had hardly any influence on Bulgarian painting, owing to the isolated state of the country. During the whole time of the Turkish rule, in spite of the very severe conditions under which the Bulgarian people lived, painting, without developing, continued to exist; not breaking entirely with the national tradition. During the first half of the 19 th cent., after the peace of Andrianople (1829), which gave a certain religious liberty to the Christian population of the Ottoman Empire, a forward movement in ecclesiastical art is noticeable: iconography and wood carving. Western civilisation began to penetrate the Ottoman Empire at about this same time (19 th cent.).

The iconographic school came to an end with the painters Stanislav Dospevsky and Nicholay Pavlovitch, and modern Bulgarian painting began. St. Dospevsky studied in the Academies of Fine Arts of Moscow and St. Petersburg; he established a link between the iconographical and the academical styles. There are numerous icons made by him in the Bulgarian churches. He has also produced portraits. Nikolay Pavlovitch appears as a great pioneer in introducing the western realistic style into Bulgaria, and to assure its success he begins a systematic struggle against the dry canons of the Byzantine iconography. His icons were in western style and for that reason did not enjoy popularity. His lithographed prints, however, apart from their artistic value, were much sought after at that period, because of their patriotic subjects.

After the liberation the academical style definitely imposed itself on Bulgarian painting.

The first Bulgarian painters after the liberation, A. Mitoff, Christo Stantcheff etc. studied in Italy, France and Germany.

In addition to them, two Czech painters, Veshin and Mrkvicka who were invited as professors of painting in the schools, came to Bulgaria. All these first masters of the brush painted portraits and typical scenes from national Bulgarian life. A. Mitoff painted markets, Mrkvicka national customs and dances and Veshin military subjects.

The Bulgarian representatives of portraiture in academical style are: Nicholas Mihailoff, Stefan Ivanoff and Boris Mitoff. The first representative of the impressionist school in Bulgaria was Nicholas Petroff, who was a very talented painter, but was carried off by an early death. Similarly, the representative of the Secession school in Bulgaria, Goshka Datzoff, died prematurely.

A great development set in after the Great War in Bulgarian painting; painters known already before the war, achieved new results: Sirak Skitnik became the chief of the expressionist school in Bulgaria, and Nicholay Rainoff gave a series of decorative paintings, interesting for their exotic modern harmony. Boris Deneff and Nicholas Taneff are painters of the sun and Bulgarian landscape as well as of very interesting oriental architecture, whilst Vladi-

mir Dimitrof—Maistora — is the painter of the Bulgarian peasant woman.

But the greatest impulse to Bulgarian painting was given by the young generation which appeared on the scene after the war. The leader of this group was Ivan Mileff, who broke away from the routine of academical composition and combined the national with the modern. His companion was Ivan Penkoff, who later on specialised as a scene painter.

The majority of the young Bulgarian painters did not go so far in modernism as their Western colleagues, the adepts of the modernist schools. These bold painters became especially prominent through their skill, talent and taste. The portraits of Detchko Ouzounoff have a modern line and colouring, those of Ilia Petroff, graphical exactness and colouring. We would mention in this group B. Obreschkoff, Ivan Nenoff, Daltcheff, B. Ivanoff, etc. Ivan Boyadjieff differs from them by the variegated colours in his pictures and a livelier understanding of forms, whilst Tz. Lavrenoff is interesting for his paintings of national customs, which are rendered in an oriental iconographical style.

To this young generation also belong the talented landscape painters Iv. Christoff and D. Detcheff, who take their subjects specially from old Bulgarian architecture.

K. Shtarkeloff and N. Marinoff excel in water colour pictures of Bulgarian landscapes. The water colour painters of the young generation are V. Stoiloff, who shows the more general human traits in his pictures and combines the academical with the national styles; B. Ivanoff and others. Graphical art has not many representatives in Bulgaria. A talented representative, however, of this branch of art is Vassil Zaharieff, who shows a masterly combination of Western technique and Bulgarian art in his wood-engravings.

The first master of caricature in Bulgaria is Al. Bojinoff, whose witty sketches have been appearing in Bulgarian periodicals for many years. Among talented caricaturists of the young generation may be mentioned Raiko Alexieff, Ilia Beshkoff and Al. Dobrinoff.

Mention might also be made of a few well known Bulgarian painters who work abroad. They are: Nicholas

Mihailoff, whose refined portraits are much appreciated in America and in certain European countries, Boris Gueorguieff, a restless spirit, producing mystical and delicate pictures with great precision of drawing, and Pentcho Gueorguieff a scene painter.

Among the representatives of the extreme modernist schools may be mentioned G. Papazoff, a sur-realist working in Paris, and Nicholay Diulgherof, who belongs to the Marinetti group.

The following women painters must be specially mentioned: Konsulova-Vasova, who paints interiors and still life, Russka Marinova, whose delicate pastel portraits are of great perfection of form, Masha Ouzounova, also a fine portrait painter, and one of the youngest, Vera Lukova.

Sculpture. — Up to the time of the liberation sculpture was almost exclusively represented in Bulgaria by wood carving, depicting apocalyptical animals as well as local fruits and plants. After the liberation Western influence became predominant.

In Bulgarian sculpture the following three names of masters of the chisel are the most prominent: G. Spiridonoff, Andrey Nicoloff and Ivan Lasaroff; all three professors at the Academy of Fine Arts in Sofia. Mention may also be made of Al. Andreeff, Mina Ivanoff, Marco Marcoff, Shivaroff, Duduloff and Peytcheff, whose works are of considerable merit. Todoroff and Mara Balsamadjieva, who are both working in Italy, should also be mentioned.

Music. — The only sphere in which the Bulgarian people never ceased to be active during the long centuries of foreign rule, is song. Sad and spontaneous, with a melodious harmony, these songs are now an inexhaustible source from which contemporary composers draw their themes. Not every musical writer, however, has sought his inspiration in folk-songs, but those who after long searching elsewhere, have returned to the folk-song have found in it the best source. One of them is Pantcho Vladigueroff, a composer who is much appreciated both abroad and in Bulgaria. But the writers of contemporary popular music rich in motifs, based on the folk songs,

are Manoloff, Bucureshlieff and Dobri Christoff. Petko Stainoff, Tzankoff and others have followed their example. Dimitri Nenoff, who is also a virtuoso pianist, resembles P. Vladigueroff more in signification, but his sources of inspirations are more modern. The conductor Atanasoff, a composer of a certain number of operas, whose librettos were drawn from national history, has also popularised music through his concerts. L. Pipkoff and H. Nestoroff, who belong to the Vladigueroff-Nenoff group, may also be mentioned.

Among the better exponents should be mentioned the names of the violinists: Sasha Popoff, Boyan Konstantinoff, Nedelka Simeonova, and Aktardjieff, the pianists Liliana Dobri Christoff and Professor A. Stoyanoff, the opera singers Peter Raitcheff, Christina Morfova, Anna Todorova, Konstanza Kirova, Milkova-Zolotovitch, P. Zolotovitch, Makedonsky and Tzvetana Tabakova.

Dancing. — One of the best Bulgarian dancers is Sonia Gueorgieva, who is known both in Bulgaria and abroad for her dances, which are full of harmony and expresion. Her creations, however, are very modern, very studied and very individual. and they do not give a true idea of the Bulgarian dance. The spontaneous expression and varied forms of the latter can only be appreciated when danced by the people themselves.

BULGARIAN ECONOMICS

Bulgaria is above all an agricultural country; about 79% of the population being dependent on the land. In most cases if not entirely, the Bulgarian farmer occupies himself both with cultivation of the land and cattle breeding.

Handicrafts were much developed in Bulgaria before the liberation, and, in spite of the rapid advance in industry, they are still active; some of them actually prospering parallel with industry, whilst new handicrafts are also being created.

Bulgarian industry is making rapid progress. It has partly evolved from the old primitive work-shops or industries, but has mostly been created in order to use the raw materials existing in the country, or simply to

satisfy certain needs of the population, employing local labour.

Parallel with the development of production and culture, credit institutions and home and foreign trade have greatly expanded.

Agriculture. — In Bulgaria the small landowner of 1 to 6 hectares predominates. The climate is moderately continental and the soil is fertile, suitable for varied agriculture. This explains why in addition to grain growing, which constitutes the major portion of the cultivation, many industrial plants are also grown. There are at the same time many orchards and kitchen gardens in the country, which produce varied and luscious fruit and vegetables, and vineyards producing delicious grapes. Other special cultivations, such as the mulberry (for silk worm breeding), rose gardens (for the distillation of Attar of Roses), etc. find very favourable conditions for their development.

The following average figures give an idea of the agricultural production of Bulgaria; they are taken from the period 1919 to 1929.

Total superficial area	10.314.620	hect.
1. Total area under cultivation which		
is divided as follows	3.760.457	„
a) Fields	3.358.062	„
b) Vineyards and gardens	81.500	„
c) Natural meadows	320.895	„
2. Total area under forests	2.698.696	„
3. Meadow and pasture land	913.081	„

The area under cultivation is divided in annual averages of the given period as follows:

1. Cereals including rice — 2.242.871 hectares, which have given an annual average output of 20.958.000 quintals.

2. Oleiferous and industrial plants — 86.589 hectares, with an annual average output of 2 502.400 quintals.

3. Leguminous plants, such as broad beans, French beans and lentils — 62.055 hectares with an annual average output of 427.000 quintals.

4. Vegetables — 45.772 hectares with annual average output of 1.006.000 quintals.

5. Fodder plants — 524.994 hectares with an annual average output of 10.062.200 quintals

6. Vineyards — 59.802 hectares with an annual average output of 1.012.800 hectolitres of must.

7. Rose gardens — 5.443 hectares, with an annual average output of 351.500 phials (muscali).

8. Orchards — 13.640 hectares, with an annual average output of 505.400 quintals.

9. Mulberry — 2.615 hectares, with an annual average output of 15.270 quintals cocoons.

The annual production of these products has increased, owing to the extension of the area under cultivation and more intensive working.

Breeding. — Owing to the decrease in pasture land, which has been transformed partly into arable land, especially in the plains, and to modernisation, cattle and poultry breeding in Bulgaria has taken a new turn. Experiments in crossing have already produced the types which best adapt themselves to the climatic and soil conditions. Efforts are also being made to improve the breeds of stock and poultry. In order to have an idea of the extent of the breeding in the country, the following round figures for the year 1929 are given.

Draught animals are also included in these figures.

a) Horses	482.200
b) Mules	27.100
c) Asses	185.400
d) Buffaloes	448.200
e) Cattle	1.817.500
f) Sheep	8.740.000
g) Goats	1.260.800
h) Swine	1.002.100
I) Poultry	10.177.600

Forests. — The population in the mountain and forest districts get their living mainly from the exploitation of the forests and from the timber industry. Forests cover almost one third of the total area of Bulgaria, namely 2.698.696 hectares. According to ownership, the forests are divided as follows:

Forests owned by public institutions, the State, the Communes, Monasteries, Churches and Schools	2.170.530 hectares.
Private forests	528.116 „

According to their kind they are divided as follows:

Coniferous	321.055 hectares.
Tall trees	574.463 „
Average height trees	60.628 „
Low growing trees	1.662.431 „
Mixed	80.119 „

Handicrafts. — Handicrafts are for the greater part gradually modernising, some of the madopting machinery, others perfecting their methods. They are adapting themselves to the more and more varied requirements of their customers, who day by day become more particular. Thanks to the skill and inventive capacity of the masters and their assistants. even the very refined tastes of the customers can be satisfied in all these crafts: clothing, foot-wear, linen, joinery, furniture etc.

Industry. — Bulgarian industry has shown important development during the past 30 years. Part of the home industry already satisfies internal needs. However, Bulgaria still imports many industrial products, either because necessary conditions for the creation of certain industries are lacking in the country, or because certain branches of industry are not yet sufficiently developed.

The textile industry is mostly concentrated at Siiven, Gabrovo, and Sofia. It comprises 139 large concerns of which 22 are producing woollen textiles and 41 cotton and hemp textiles. The annual production of the textile industry reaches a value of about 1.320 million Levas.

The rope, string etc. industry is represented by 10 large undertakings which have an average production per year of 790 tons with a value of about 53 million Levas.

The hosiery industry has 44 factories, 18 important and 27 of less importance. The total yearly production amounts in round figures to a value of 100 million Levas.

To these must be added industries allied to the latter, such as thread and silk weaving concerns, 2 sewing thread factories, 15 lace factories and 6 carpet making factories with a total production in value of about 200 million Levas.

The other more important industries are:

Description	Number of Concerns	Production in tons	Value in million Leva
1. Leather	45	2.875	426
2. Metal working.	119	—	436
3. Chemical:			
a) Vegetal Oils	51	9.948	295
b) Soap	17	4.525	122
c) Rubber	4	—	17
d) Attar of Roses	14	—	106
e) Paper	3	3.665	30
f) Explosives	6	—	20
g) Chemical Products	3	1.222	28
h) Dyes	7	—	19
i) Candles	5	480	5
j) Other Factories	35		
4. Milling	138	283.850	2.030
5. Sugar	4	35.450	690
6. Preserved Food	17	—	63
7. Beer	7	735	85
8. Alcohol	4	2.365	32
9. Cement	2	11.1 0	147
10. Brick, tile and pottery	63	—	195
11. Glass	—	—	20
12. Chinaware	3	—	18
13. Furniture	20	—	65*)

*) Most of the above figures are taken from the 1928 statistics.

Mineral Wealth. — Sub-soil investigations, made up to the present, have indicated the presence of many varied coal and other mineral bcds. Owing to the absence of large capital in the country, however, various mines are exploited directly by the State and only comparatively few by companies or private persons; many remaining unworked.

The State exploits the Pernik mines, a rich lignite basin on the Sofia—Kustendil railway; Boboff Dol, between Radomir and Dupnitsa, an old lignite mine; also the Maritza mine, near Rakovsky station on the Sofia—Svilengrade railway, and further, the Lukovitza silver and lead mine in the Rhodopes, and the rock-salt mine near Provadia.

The following mines are worked by private undertakings:

1. „Plakalnitza“, copper and zinc, in the Balkans, near Vratza.

2. „Strashimir“, „Sofia“, „Sharenka“, lead and zinc. In the Rhodopes.

3. „Economoff“, „Trud“ etc., copper. In the Bourgas region.

4. „Sveti Ivan Rilsky“, „Sveta Mina“ etc., copper, lead and zinc. in the Balkans, near Vratza.

5. „Sveti Sveti Sedmotchisienitzi“, „Zgori Grad“ etc., copper, lead and zinc. In the Balkans, near Vratza.

6. „Tzar Assen“, copper and lead. In the Rhodopes.

7. „Nova Industria“, „Kaolin“, in the Deli Orman district (North Bulgaria).

8. „Pirrin“, „Vulcan“, „Istochnik“, „Tcherno More“, „Beli Breg“, „Sveti Ivan Rilsky“, Harji Dimiter“ etc., lignite.

9. „Prince Boris“, „Badeshte“, „Tchumerna“, „Sveti Nicola“ etc. black coal and anthracite. In the Balkans.

The total production of the various mines for 1929 was:

I. C o a l.

1. Lignite (brown coal) .	1.572.965 tons
2. Black coal.	76.335 "
3. Anthracite	2.519 "
<hr/>	
Total . .	1.651.819 tons

2. M i n e r a l s.

1. Copper	31.310 tons
2. Lead	3.983 "
3. Copper and Lead . .	9.923 "
4. Lead and Zinc . . .	11.396 "
5. Zinc	1.925 "
6. Kaolin	3 613 "
7. Kitchen Salt.	3.653 "

Owing to its petrographical character, Bulgaria also has many quarries 1.792; the largest number of which, 1.141, are State owned. Most varied material is obtained from these: marble. gypsum, chalk. lithographic stone, marl and lime stone, potters clay, syenite. diorite, talc etc

Foreign Trade. — During the years 1928, 1929, 1930 foreign trade was as follows:

I m p o r t.

Year	Tons	In Tbonsand Leva
1928	354.989	7.040.935
1929	505.052	8.324.633
1930	316.880	4.589.725

E x p o r t.

Year	Tons	In thousand Leva	Trade balance surplus in thousand Leva
1928	368.192	6.231.247	+ 829.688
1929	302.376	6.317.061	+ 1.987.572
1930	543.148	6.191.140	+ 1.601.315

Imports are principally manufactured articles, colonial goods, cloth and textiles, metallurgical products. machinery etc. Exports, on the other hand, consist almost exclusively of the products of agriculture and stock and poultry breeding. The principal products exported were:

Years	Cereals Tons	Value in thousand Leva	Tobacco Tons	Value in thousand Leva	Eggs Tons	Value n thousaud Leva
1928	198.193	743.330	22.299	2.242.504	10.648	567.748
1929	104.201	525.065	20.223	2.896.251	12.721	734.539
1930	303.712	852.260	22.453	2.654.239	19.213	887.282

Years	Raw hides Tons	Value in thousand Leva	Attar of Roses in kgr.	Value in thousand Leva
1928	1.822	332.227	3.157	240.678
1929	1.625	298.594	2.664	266.804
1930	1.865	236.739	1.752	194.431

Years	Oilseed cakes Tons	Value In thousand Leva	Fruits & Vegetables Tons	Value in thousand Leva
1928	21 306	107.157	2.321	37.632
1929	25.266	111.234	3.665	61.382
1930	35.186	108.498	8.578	86.109

Bulgarian products, particularly tobacco, Attar of Roses, vegetables and fruit, have always been greatly appreciated in importing countries. Bulgarian tobacco ranks among the best in the Orient and is greatly esteemed for its quality. Bulgarian Attar of Roses has been known throughout the world for a considerable time; it is used as the base for the best known perfumes. Bulgarian vegetables and fruits: apples, table grapes of many kinds particularly „Afuz Ali“, plums, melons and water melons, beans, peas, lentils, tomatoes, onions, cabbages, cauli flowers, are all of excellent quality. They grow in such abundance that they are exceedingly cheap in Bulgaria itself. Export to the Central European and Near East markets is increasing year by year. Very favourable climatic conditions give an excellent quality to all Bulgarian agricultural produce, according to the opinion of the best experts. All who have once sampled them again demand them.

USEFUL HINTS FOR TRAVELLERS

1. — *Passports. — Visas.* — Foreigners visiting Bulgaria or passing through in transit, must have their passports vised by Bulgarian Legations or Consulates abroad. Visas are of two kinds — entry or transit. An entry visa permits a stay in the country without other formalities of 7 days, reckoned from the day of passing the frontier. If it is desired to prolong this stay the traveller must report without delay to the police head quarters in the principal town of the district. The address of head police station for Sofia and district is Marie Louisa street, Sofia. His passport will be registered and an identity card supplied. He must furnish three full face photographs for the latter. The principal district towns other than Sofia are: Bourgas, Varna, Vidin, Vratza, Gorna Djumaya, Kustendil, Kirdjali, Pashmakli, Plovdiv, Pleven, Roustchuk, Stara Zagora, Tirnovo, Haskov and Shumen.

During the season from June the 1st to 30-th of September, foreigners staying at the Black Sea resorts: Varna, Giosiken, Messemvria, Anhialo, Bourgas, and Sozopol or in the watering places: Kostenetz Bania. Varshetz, Hissar, Ladjene and Tchepino Bania, do not require identity cards if it is stated on their passports that they have come to Bulgaria to stay at watering places or sea side resorts. In such cases the local police authorities stamp on passport „valid as an identity card“. This stamp is only good for the place where it has been granted. It is not valid for the whole country and if the foreigner visits other parts he must get an identity card.

Foreigners who have remained more than 6 days in the country, having registered their passports accordingly, must apply to the police of the district wherein their passports were registered, for an exit visa at least 24

hours before leaving the country. For Sofia and district applications must be made at the head police station, Maria Louisa street. Foreigners who have changed their place of residence during their stay in Bulgaria and apply for exit visas at another police station, will be granted the exit visa after telegraphic consultation (at their expense) with the police authorities of the district where their passports were registered.

Foreigners who have stayed more than a month in the country, must furnish a certificate from the taxation authorities of the district where their passports were registered to the effect that they have paid their taxes, if they have engaged themselves in any profession or trade during their stay, or to the effect that they have not done so. The exit visa will only be granted upon such a certificate being produced. In cases where foreigners have stayed at health resorts etc. and have not engaged themselves in any profession or trade, the certificate can be supplied by the Municipal authorities.

Foreigners having a transit visa can only break their journey in cases of illness, accident or the exigencies of transport; but cannot make a long stay.

Motorists who possess tryptics in accordance with the international convention of 1926, are exempt from Consular visas if possessing passports. Such exemption only applies to the people mentioned in the Tryptic, i. e. the owner of the car and his chauffeur.

2. — *Examination of luggage and control of passports.* — Travellers luggage is subject to Customs examination at the frontiers and ports when entering and leaving the country. This is usually done at the same time as the control of passports.

3. — *Conveyances in the towns.* — Taxicabs and horse-cabs convey passengers to and from stations and harbours. At Sofia the station is also served by frequent trams to the centre of the town; Nos 1, 2 and 6. These pass several hotels, especially No 1, which goes through the most important streets, near the best hotels in the capital, Tramfares in the town are 3 levass, and 4 levass with transfer. Trams run from Sveta Nedelia square, in the

centre of the town, to all parts of the town and outskirts. Taxicabs charge from 30 to 70 Levas from the station. Fares in the provinces are about the same, according to the distance to the station.

4. — *Hotels Restaurants.* — Prices in the large towns including Sofia, for a single room in a middle class hotel, vary from 25 to 75 Levas according to floor and situation and in first class hotels from 75 to 150 Levas. Reductions can be arranged for longer stays. Prices in hotels de luxe are of course higher.

Prices for meals in second class restaurants vary between 30 and 50 levas, without wine, and in first class restaurant from 50 to 120 Levas. Meals usually cost between 40 and 80 levas in the best restaurants.

Tips are not paid separately in bars, restaurants, cafes etc., 10% being added to the bill for that purpose.

5. — *Time.* — The time is East European in Bulgaria — 2 hours in advance of Western European winter time. There is no difference between summer and winter time, in Bulgaria.

6. — *Railway fares and reductions on the Bulgarian State Railways.* — Tickets can be obtained at the large travelling agencies, and all railway stations.

Circular tickets for a predetermined itinerary, according to the traveller's wishes, covering the whole of the Bulgarian railway system, can be obtained at frontier and harbour stations and those of Sofia, Plovdiv, Stara Zagora and Gorna Orehovitza. These tickets are valid for one month and permit tours to be made on the most interesting lines, also the journey can be broken without any formality according to the traveller's wish. They are issued for a minimum travelling distance of 400 klm. When the itinerary chosen exceeds 600 klm. the price of the ticket amounts to about 50% of the normal price for fast trains. Circular tickets give the traveller the right to take any train except the Simplon Orient Express.

The Bulgarian State Railways make a reduction of 50% for organised groups of 15 or more persons from all railway stations to the following stations and halts: Rilsky Monastir (for visiting Rila Monastery), Stanimaka (for

visiting Batchkovo Monastery and the Rhodope mountains), Madara (for the Madara ruins, the Rider, etc.), Pliska (for the ruins, and the fortified camp of the first Bulgarian Khans), Preslav (for visiting the ruins and the capital of the First Bulgarian Kingdom), Tirnovo and Trapesitza (for visiting the town, ruins and monuments of the capital of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom), Gabrovo and Kazanlik (for the Valley of Roses and monuments of the Shipka Pass and the Monastery), Oreshetz (for the high rocks of Belogradtchik and the ancient fort). A collective return ticket is issued for the whole party. The ticket is valid for 10 days for trips up to 200 klm. and 20 days for trips exceeding 200 klm. Tickets are issued for a minimum trip of 200 klm. in one direction.

The Bulgarian State Railways make reductions during the season (usually from 15th June to 15th September) of 25% on the ordinary tariff for all trains from all stations, to stations which are near watering places, health and sea side resorts or to the nearest or most convenient point of departure for such places. These stations are: Aitos, Anhi-alo, Babino Malo, Bankia, Belovo, Varna, Vratza, Gabrovo, Gorna Bania, Dolen Tchiflik, Drenovo, Dupnitsa, Gorna Djumaya, Zaharna Fabrika, Zemen, Izvorite, Izt. Shivatchevo, Kazanlik Kostenetz Bania, Krastetz, Kustendil, Lovetch, Ladzene, Nova Zagora, Oreshetz, Plachkovtzi, Plovdiv, Poduene, Rila, Svogue, Sliven, Sofia, Stanimaka, Stara-Zagora, Straldja, T. Pazardjik, Tchepino Bania, Tvarditza, Trapesitza, Tulovo, Tirnovo, Tcherven Breg, Filipovo, Haskovo and Tzareva Livada.

Foreign excursionists, travelling in parties of minimum 25 persons, enjoy a reduction of 30% on the fast train tariff on all trains, except the Simplon Orient Express, when coming to Bulgaria for the purpose of visiting the various resorts or certain other places; also when travelling in transit through the country. In order to obtain this reduction applications must be made to the General Board of the Bulgarian State Railways in Sofia; indicating the Bulgarian frontier stations of entry and exit, also the stations and resorts where they wish to stay.

Foreign tourists, travelling in parties of not less than 5 persons, who are provided with a certificate from the central Council of the Bulgarian Tourist Club, enjoy a

reduction of 35% on the normal tariff. (The address of the Club is Solun street 25, Sofia).

7. Travelling ou Bulgarian Ships. Ships of the Bulgarian Trading and Steam Navigation Company, whose head office is in Varna, run regularly to Turkey, Greece, the Greek Isles, Fgypt, Palestine and Cyprus. They carry both goods and passengers between the Bulgarian ports on the Black Sea, Varna and Bourgas, and Constantinople and ports ou the Aegean Sea, Piraeus, Chios, Mytilene, Volo, Salonika, Cavalla, the Isles of the Archipelago, Port Said, Alexandria, Beyruth, Jaffa, Haiffa, Larnaca, Famagusta etc.

The ships are equipped with all modern accommodation.

The „Bourgas“, „Tzar Ferdinand“ and „Bulgaria“ are fitted with radio telegraphic stations which are at the disposal of travellers.

The Company runs two regular lines, which take their names respectively from the principal port of call — the Piraeus Line and the Alexandria Line.

The Piraeus Line regularly visits Varna, Bourgas, Constantinople, Piraeus, Chios, Mytilene, twice monthly and Volo, Salonika, Cavalla, Dedeagatch, Syra etc. when inducement offers.

The Alexandria Line regularly visits Varna, Bourgas, Constantinople, Rhodos, Haiffa, Alexandria, Port Said, Larnaka, Famagusta, Limassol, and Piraeus twice monthly and Beyruth, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersina, Jaffa etc when inducement offers.

Return fares for either of these lines are:

Piraeus-Line:		Alexandria-Line:	
1st class	— 5.000 Levas	1st class	— 8.000 Levas
2nd „	— 4.600 „	2no „	— 6.000 „
3rd „	— 2.000 „	3rd „	— 4.000 „

Note: Ist and 2nd class fares include cabin and berth.

Excellent food is obtainable on these ships at a cost of 195 Levas per day, either table d'hôte or à la carte.

Full information can be obtained at the head office of the Company, Varna, also in all agencies in ports visited by Bulgarian ships.

8. Monetary Unit. The Bulgarian unit is the leva; stabilised on the basis of the U. S. A. Dollar. The nominal rates of exchange are as follows:

	New-York	Paris	Berlin	Italy	Vienna	Prague
At par	\$ =	100 francs =	100 R. M. =	100 L. it. =	100 Schill. =	100 Kč =
	138·426	542·340	3,297·491	728·558	1,947·831	410·136
Buying . .	138·—	544·—	3,100·—	675·—	1,938·—	408·20
Selling . .	139·—	548·—	3,150·—	683·—	1,958·—	412·30

	Greece	Buca-rest	Bel-grade	Turkey	Geneva	Warsaw
At par	100 drach. =	100 Lei =	100 dinars =	1 L. T. =	100 Sw. Fr. =	100 zlotys =
	176·642	82·80	243·80	608·549*)	2,670·968	1,552·88
Buying . .	149·—	82·—	243·50	64·80	2,701·—	1,545·—
Selling . .	151·60	83·30	247·50	65·80	2,721·—	1,569·—

*) The at par rate for the Turkish Pound is for the gold pound, whilst the buying and selling rates are for paper pounds.

The rate at par for Sterling was, up to the departure from the gold basis, 673.66. The buying rate of exchange on London has varied between 542 and 450 since October the 2nd, 1931.

The buying and selling rates given are those quoted by the Bulgarian National Bank. We have given the rates existing on 30th of September 1931 of a number of stable currencies.

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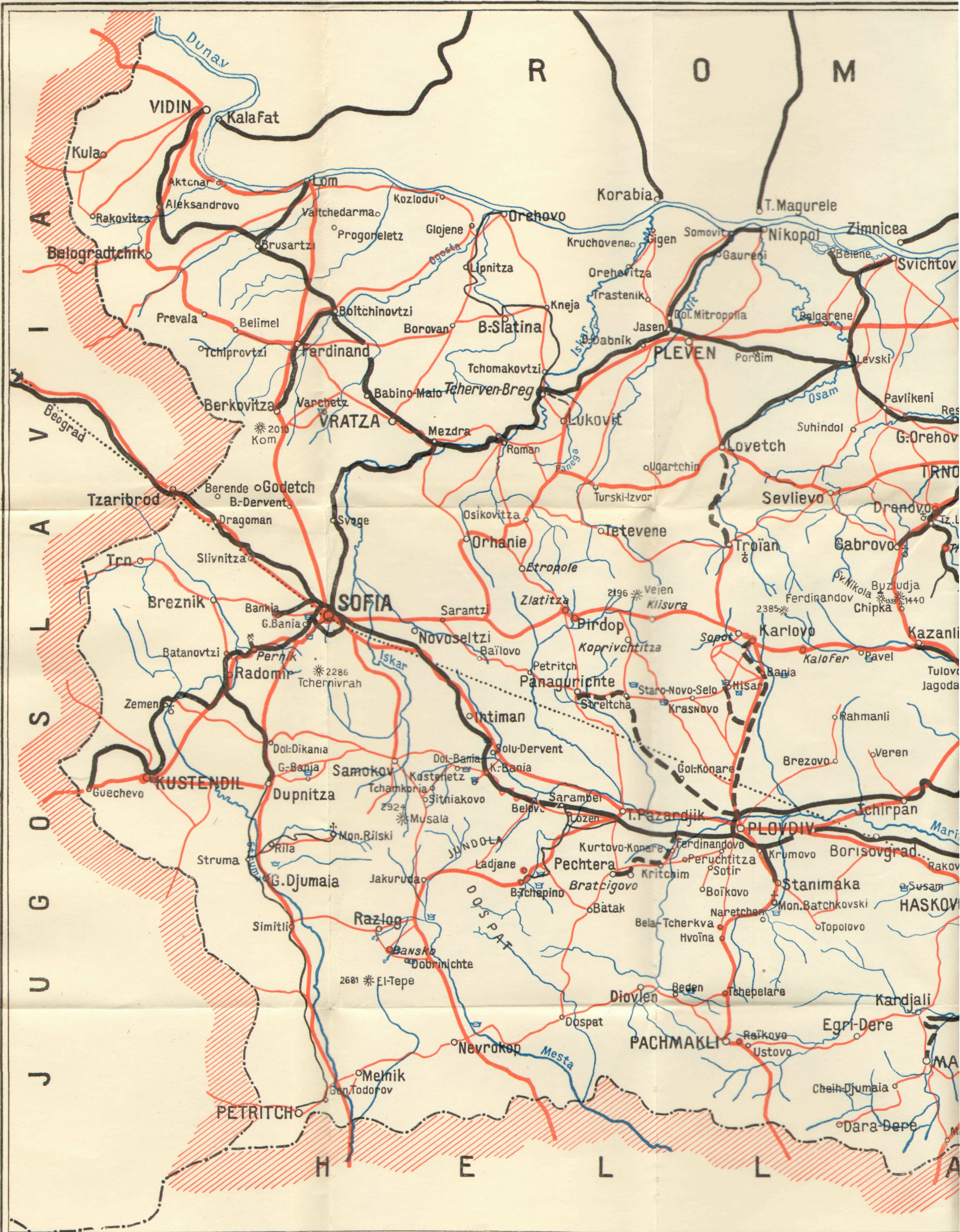
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IX. APPENDIX

Map of Bulgarian State Railways, highways, roads etc.

N. B. — The air-lines „Luft Hansa“: Central Europe, Asia, and „Lot“: Danzig, Warsaw, Bucarest, Salonica, which now pass through Sofia, are not shown on the attached map.

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ZEICHENERKLÄRUNG:

- Normalspurige Bahnen im Betrieb
- Normalspurige Bahnen im Bau
- Schmalspurige Bahnen im Betrieb
- Hauptstrassen
- Nebenstrassen
- Bäder und Mineralquellen
- Kloster
- Gipfel
- Sommerfrischen
- Flüsse

SIGNES CONVENTIONNELS:

- Voie ferrée normale en exploit.
- Voie ferrée normale en construc.
- Voie ferrée étroite en exploit.
- Chaussées
- Routes secondaires
- Bains et sources d'eau minérale
- Monastères
- Sommets
- Stations climatiques
- Fleuves

EXPLANATION:

- Normal gauge
- Normal gauge
- Narrow gauge
- First-class roads
- Second-class roads
- Bath and Mineral Springs
- Monastery
- Summit
- Country
- Rivers

AIRLINES



EXPLANATION OF MARKS:
 — lines in operation
 - - lines under construction
 — lines in operation
 — roads
 — general waters

